

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Former Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1, Draft Removal Action Work Plan; AOC 049 - U.S. Department of Energy

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Elsa Lopez al número (818) 717 6571.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the Draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) Area of Concern (AOC) 049, prepared as part of the former Naval Petroleum Reserve (NPR-1) Closure Project.

The former NPR-1 is located in the Elk Hills Oil Field and consists of approximately 74 square miles of land in Kern County, California. AOC 049, also known as the Tupman Burn Dump, is a former municipal burn dump within the former NPR-1. It was used by residents of the town of Tupman from 1952 through 1971, and has since been covered with clean fill and graded.

This Fact Sheet contains information about site location, history, and background of the AOC, previous site investigations and actions, removal action objectives, proposed cleanup alternatives, recommended cleanup option, next steps, and contact information.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): As required by California Law, DTSC has performed a review of the proposed Draft RAW in accordance with CEQA. Based on that review, DTSC has determined that the project will not have any significant effect on public health or the environment. DTSC proposes to issue a CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project.

What is Being Proposed?

The Draft RAW proposes to enhance the existing cover at AOC 049 with at least 12 additional inches of engineered cap. No soil is planned for removal from AOC 049. The Draft RAW provides a description of AOC 049 and the proposed cleanup activities. These corrective measures are necessary to obtain DTSC approval for closure of AOC 049 and a "No Further Action" (NFA) designation.

Site Location: The former NPR-1 is divided into a series of townships and ranges. AOC 049 is located in the eastern portion of the former NPR-1 in grid 25S, Section 25, T30S/R24E, on the east side of the Tupman Road. AOC 049 is approximately 0.4 acres in the central portion of an 8.8-acre parcel owned by Kern County, and is approximately 800 feet southeast of the border of Tupman, California.

AOC 049 is within an active oil field, which is closed to the public.

Public Comment Period



30-day public comment period from January 5 through February 6, 2017

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the Draft RAW for AOC 049. The Draft RAW, CEQA, and other project related documents are available for review at the locations listed on the last page of this document.

DTSC will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed. Please submit written comments postmarked or emailed by February 6, 2017, to:

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A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project.



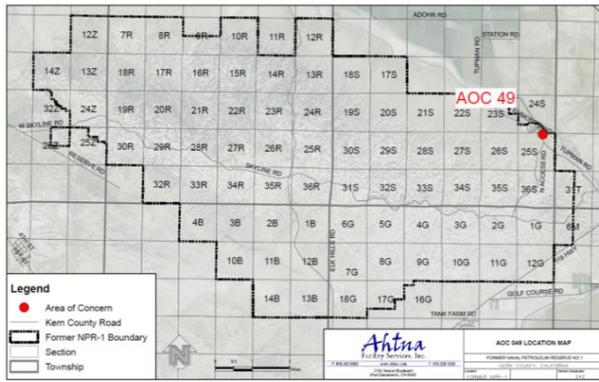
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AOC 049 Location Map

Site History and Background: The NPR-1 was created by an Executive Order in 1912 to preserve potential petroleum resources for national defense purposes. Pursuant to Public Law 104-106, passed in February 1996, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was required to sell the United States’ lands and hydrocarbon interests in NPR-1. DOE sold the Federal Government’s interests in NPR-1 to Occidental Petroleum Corporation (Occidental), effective October 1, 1997, which operated the Elk Hills Oil Field under the name Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. In 2014, Occidental transferred the property to California Resources Corporation, who now operates the Elk Hills Oil Field under the name of California Resources Elk Hills, LLC (CREH).

DOE and DTSC entered into an Agreement for Site Assessment in 1998 that was subsequently amended and, in 2008, a Corrective Action Consent Agreement was signed in which DOE agreed to complete the corrective action process at 131 Solid Waste Management Units and/or AOCs, including AOC 049.

DTSC will oversee placement of the additional engineered cover at AOC 049.

AOC 049 was used by the residents of the town of Tupman for household waste disposal. Household waste was delivered to the site, pushed into a trench, and periodically burned. The trench was backfilled sometime between 1971 and 1975.

In 1985, an oil well (Well #361-25S) was installed near the approximate center of the former trench. To facilitate the well installation, a pad for the well had to be engineered to bear the load of drilling rigs and the well equipment. The pad appears to cover nearly the entire former trench.

In 2002, Chevron sold the parcel of land that included AOC 049 to Kern County; Chevron retained mineral rights to the site and has leased those rights to CREH, who continue to operate Well #361-25S. Kern County’s counsel had advised the Kern County Waste Management Department (KCWMD) to own former burn dump locations within the county so the burn ash can be remediated (capped and closed). Consequently, the Kern County Environmental Health Services Department controls the future site usage.

Previous Site Investigations: In 2001, KCWMD contracted with Geomatrix, Inc. to perform a Solid Waste Assessment Questionnaire for AOC 049. The purpose of the investigation was to define the limits of the former Tupman Burn Dump and assess the contents and their impact to adjacent soil.

Geomatrix estimated that about 5,000 cubic yards (cy) of ash had been capped in the trench. Based on laboratory analysis, they concluded that the ash was non-hazardous as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 17225.32. Further, Geomatrix concluded that the mobility of metals through the soil was limited. Native soil samples collected from beneath the ash did not indicate elevated levels of metals.

Based on the 2001 sampling event, lead has been identified as a chemical of concern (COC) at AOC 049.

Removal Action Objectives: The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to propose a preferred cleanup approach that prevents or reduces potential risks to human health. The Draft RAW summarizes previous studies, presents four alternatives, and then recommends the most appropriate cleanup option for the site, including procedures for achieving proposed cleanup goals.

Proposed Remediation Alternatives: The Draft RAW evaluates a range of alternatives that could be used to mitigate potential health risks at AOC 049. These alternatives are evaluated, with respect to Federal and State criteria, for short and long-term effectiveness, feasibility, and cost. The following alternatives were considered for remediation at AOC 049.

1. Minimal Action Required. This alternative proposes to leave the debris and impacted soil in place, limit access, and restrict future use of the property through



deed restrictions.

2. **Leave Burn Ash in Place and Cap.** This alternative proposes to place a cap of clean soil over the site to prevent migration of or exposure to COCs. Deed restrictions would limit post-closure land use. A Post-closure Operation and Maintenance Plan administered by the landowner (KCWMD) would be necessary to ensure the integrity of the cap is maintained and is protective of human health.
3. **Consolidate Burn Ash On-site or on a Contiguous Parcel That Already Contains Burn Ash.** This scenario assumes there are multiple burn ash sites on contiguous parcels owned by the responsible party and that it may be viable to consolidate them on a single parcel and then provide a cap.
4. **Clean Closure.** This alternative proposes to remove ash and impacted soil within the AOC and conduct post-excavation soil sampling to confirm that soil cleanup goals are met.

Recommended Action: Alternative 2 offers short-term and long-term effectiveness, is feasible, cost effective, and offers a high degree of protection for human health.

Alternative 1 was determined to be either not protective or having only a moderate degree of protection for human health and Alternative 3 is not applicable as there is no contiguous site owned by the responsible party which contains burn ash for consolidation. Alternative 4 is not recommended due to the excessive cost necessary to implement.

Based on the evaluation of the remediation alternatives, DOE recommends Alternative 2. Capping AOC 049 with clean soil will ensure containment; therefore, will be protective of human health.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Place additional soil as needed to ensure burn dump is covered.
- Place a 7-foot-wide screen barrier along the edges of the cover at AOC 049 to prevent burrowing animals from digging into the former trench.
- Construct the cap over the screen. The cap would be compacted to enhance durability from wind, erosion, and oil field vehicles.

- Erect a 4-foot-high, four-strand barbed wire fence around the perimeter of the cap to deter unauthorized entry onto the site.
- Post signage consistent with Proposition 65, also known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986.
- Kern County to record a deed restriction to limit the use of the land.
- KCWMD will provide post-closure operation and maintenance of the cap and security features of the site to ensure the cap remains protective of human health. In addition, the following controls designed to protect the surrounding community are proposed during construction activities:
- The cap installation will be planned and conducted to minimize wind erosion and generation of airborne dust. Dust control measures will be implemented prior to the start of work and maintained each day by applying Best Management Practices, including: wetting the soil, reducing vehicle speed, and cleaning vehicle tires to minimize track out. Dust monitoring and testing will be conducted to confirm compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM₁₀ (small dust particles in the air with the potential to cause health issues if exposed for long periods of time).
- Site workers will be required to sign in, receive a Safety and Health briefing, and wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

Next Steps: Before making a final decision to approve or reject the proposed plan, DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period. After the close of the public comment period and prior to making a final decision on the Draft RAW, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document, which will list the comments received and how they were considered. The Response to Comments will be included in the final RAW and placed in the information repositories established for the site.

Schedule for Proposed Removal Actions: The removal action is scheduled for completion in spring/summer of 2017.

Where to Find the Documents: The Draft RAW and other related documents regarding the former NPR-1 Closure Project are available for review at the following repository:

Taft Library
27 Emmons Park Drive
Taft, California 93268
(661) 763-3294



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Documents Available Online at the DTSC EnviroStor database:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=80001254

(Click the “Community Involvement” tab)

Whom to Contact for More Information: If you have any questions about this Fact Sheet or the Draft RAW, please contact the following DTSC staff:

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