

# 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, U.S. Department of Energy, Draft Removal Action Work Plan; AOC 048

Available for public review and comment from March 28 to April 26, 2018

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Elsa Lopez al número (818) 717-6566.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the *Draft Removal Action Work Plan (Draft RAW); Area of Concern (AOC) 048*, prepared as part of the former Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 (NPR-1) Closure Project.

The former NPR-1 is located in the Elk Hills Oil Field and consists of about 74 square miles of land in Kern County, California. AOC 048 is a former produced water disposal facility within the former NPR-1.

This Community Update provides information on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), What is Being Proposed, Site Location, Site History and AOC Background, Previous Site Investigations, Removal Action Objectives, Clean-up Alternatives, Proposed Alternative, Next Steps, Where to Find Documents and DTSC Contact Information.

**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. The CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for a 30-day public review period from March 28 through April 26, 2018. Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed to DTSC by April 26, 2018.

DTSC Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (EJTA) has reviewed the Tribal Outreach process utilized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and concurs that this process meets with DTSC's EJTA outreach and consultation objectives. Per request of the Tribes, a monitor will be on site during soil excavation activities.

### What is Being Proposed?

The DOE proposes excavation and off-site disposal of 830 cubic yards (cy) of contaminated soil at AOC 048. The Draft RAW provides a description of AOC 048 and the proposed cleanup activities. These corrective measures are necessary to obtain DTSC approval for closure of AOC 048 and a "No Further Action" (NFA) designation.

### Public Comment Period



### 30-day Public Comment Period

March 28 to April 26, 2018

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the Draft RAW and CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for AOC 048. The Draft RAW, CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration, and other project documents are available for review at locations listed on page 3.

DTSC will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed. Please submit public comments postmarked or e-mailed by April 26, 2018, to:

#### Thomas Berg

DTSC Project Manager  
1515 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611-0522  
Phone: (559) 297-3978

E-mail:

[Thomas.Berg@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Thomas.Berg@dtsc.ca.gov)

A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project.



www.calepa.ca.gov

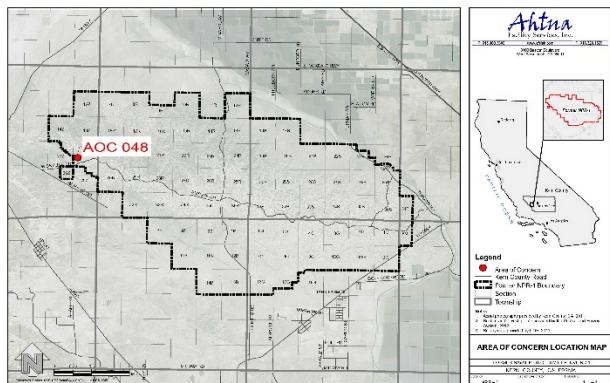


www.dtsc.ca.gov



www.ca.gov

**Site Location:** The former NPR-1 is divided into a series of townships and ranges. AOC 048 is approximately 0.46 acres and located in the western portion of the former NPR-1 in grid 24Z, Section 24, T30S/R22E, on the north side of Skyline Road. AOC 048 is located within an active oil field, which is closed to the public.



**AOC 048 Location Map**

**Site History and AOC Background:** 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 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.

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 048.

AOC 048, also known as the 24Z Wastewater Disposal Facility, temporarily stored wastewater from the nearby 24Z Lease Automated Custody Transfer (LACT) Facility in two 5,000-barrel aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). Additionally, oil skimmed off the top of the 5,000-barrel ASTs was temporarily stored in a third 500-barrel AST.

The out of service ASTs were removed in November 2012.

**Previous Site Investigations:** Ahtna Facility Services, Inc., (AFSI) under contract with DOE, performed a confirmatory investigation at AOC 048 in November 2013. The purpose of the investigation was to identify if there were past releases of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) in soil at AOC 048 that pose a risk to human health. Arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were identified as COPCs.

In December 2015, AFSI performed a supplemental investigation at AOC 048 to assess the extent of elevated arsenic and investigate a potential correlation between elevated COPC detections and infrastructure left in place after the AST removal.

Based on results from the 2013 confirmatory investigation and the 2015 supplemental investigation, arsenic and PAHs were identified as chemicals of concern (COCs) at AOC 048.

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

**Clean-up Alternatives:** The Draft RAW evaluates a range of alternatives that could be used to mitigate potential health risks at AOC 048. 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 of AOC 048.

1. No Action: In accordance with regulatory guidance, the No Action alternative is analyzed as a baseline for comparison with other alternatives.
2. Land Use Controls: This alternative proposes to leave contaminated soil in place, limit access to the site, and restrict future use of the property through deed restriction.
3. Capping with Land Use Controls: 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, while engineered controls would limit post-closure accessibility.
4. In Situ Soil Stabilization: This alternative, which changes waste characteristics to immobilize contaminants, proposes remediation of COCs within AOC 048 and confirmation sampling once remediation is complete.
  5. Ex Situ Soil Stabilization: This alternative proposes excavation and stabilization of contaminated soil at AOC 048. Once remediation is complete, confirmation sampling would be performed.
  6. Excavation, Waste Consolidation, and Capping with Land Use Controls: This alternative proposes to remove the contaminated soil within AOC 048, consolidate the contaminated soil, and then cover the consolidation area with a cap of clean soil. Post-excavation sampling would be conducted at AOC 048 to confirm soil cleanup goals have been met.
  7. Excavation and Offsite Disposal: This alternative proposes to remove the contaminated soil from AOC 048 and dispose of the contaminated soil at a state-approved landfill(s). Post-excavation sampling would be conducted at AOC 048 to confirm soil cleanup goals have been met.

Alternatives 1 through 6 were not protective of or have only a moderate degree of protection for human health. Additionally, alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 6 require long-term maintenance and monitoring. Alternative 7 offers short-term and long-term effectiveness, is feasible, cost effective, and offers a high degree of protection for human health.

**Proposed Alternative:** Based on the evaluation of the remediation alternatives, DTSC and DOE propose Alternative 7: Excavation and Off-site Disposal of soil. This alternative proposes to permanently remove approximately 830 cy of contaminated soil from AOC 048 and transport it to a permitted California landfill for disposal. Up to 650 cy of clean overburden may be excavated, and later replaced into the excavation, to facilitate the removal action.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Excavate contaminated soil to a depth of 1-4 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs) within the western and eastern excavation areas.
- Excavate discrete portions of the western excavation area to depths of approximately 5 ft bgs and 8 ft bgs; excavate discrete portions of the eastern excavation area to depths of approximately 8 ft bgs and 12 ft bgs.
- Collect post-excavation soil samples to confirm COCs are not present at levels that pose a risk to human health or the environment.
- Characterize and dispose of excavated soil at a permitted landfill.
- Backfill areas excavated to depths deeper than 2 ft bgs with clean fill and regrade.
- Complete surface restoration per the *2013 California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-029-04* (ITP) and *ITP Amendment No. 1*.

In addition, the following controls designed to protect the surrounding community are proposed during cleanup activities:

- The removal action will be planned and conducted to minimize wind erosion and generation of airborne dust.
- Dust control measures will be implemented prior to start of work and maintained daily by applying Best Management Practices, including: wetting the soil, reducing vehicle speed, and cleaning vehicle tires. Dust monitoring and testing will be conducted to ensure dust stays at safe levels.
- 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.



www.calepa.ca.gov



www.dtsc.ca.gov



www.ca.gov

**Schedule for Proposed Removal Actions:** The removal action is scheduled for completion between May 2018 and February 2019.

**Where to Find the Documents?** The Draft RAW, CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration, and other related documents regarding the former NPR-1 Closure Project are available for review at the following Information Repositories:

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

DTSC Clovis Office  
1515 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611  
(559) 297-3901; Call for Appointment

Documents Available Online at the DTSC EnviroStor database:

[http://www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=80001254](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 Community Update or the Draft RAW, please contact:

Thomas Berg  
Project Manager  
DTSC, 1515 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611-0522  
(559) 297-3978  
E-mail: [Thomas.Berg@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Thomas.Berg@dtsc.ca.gov)

Tim Chauvel  
Public Participation Specialist  
DTSC, 5796 Corporate Ave  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5487  
E-mail: [Tim.Chauvel@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tim.Chauvel@dtsc.ca.gov)

For Media Inquiries Only  
Russ Edmondson  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(916) 323-3372  
E-mail: [Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov)



[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov)



[www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)



[www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)