

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 056 DU06

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) 056 DU06*, 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 about 74 square miles of land in Kern County, California. AOC 056 DU06 is part of a former surface scatter/surface dump within the former NPR-1. It was used by the residents of Tupman as a domestic refuse dump from the 1950s to the 1970s.

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 140 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil at AOC 056 DU06. The Draft RAW provides a description of AOC 056 DU06 and the proposed cleanup activities. These corrective measures are necessary to obtain DTSC approval for closure of AOC 056 DU06 and a "No Further Action" 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 056 DU06. 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:

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A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project.



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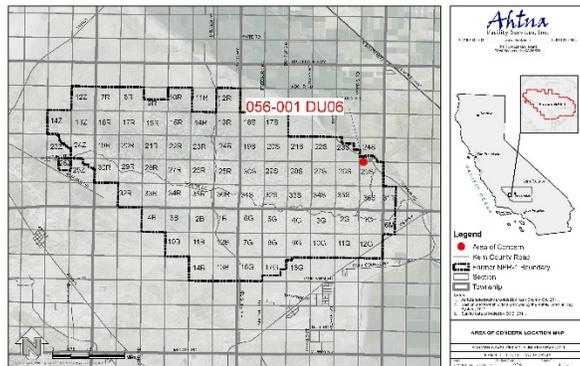


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Site Location: The former NPR-1 is divided into a series of townships and ranges. AOC 056 DU06 is located in the eastern portion of the former NPR-1 in grid 25S, Section 25, T30S/R24E. AOC 056 DU06 is 10 feet (ft) by 50 ft in size. AOC 056 DU06 is within an active oil field, which is closed to the public.



AOC 056 DU06 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, 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 056.

AOC 056 contains the DU06 surface scatter, a burn site in the northern portion, and a general surface scatter throughout the approximately 95-acre AOC. DU06 is located 90 ft south of the AOC’s northern boundary. AOC 056 was listed in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Assessment as the “25S Surface Scatter.”

Previous Site Investigations: In 2013 and 2015, DOE conducted a Confirmatory Investigation at AOC 056 DU06 to assess whether there were releases of lead into the surface and subsurface soil due to past U.S. Government operations at the AOC.

Results of both investigations indicated lead concentrations were greater than the risk-based screening level in surface soil in the 10 ft by 50 ft area designated as DU06. DOE recommended removal of approximately 140 cubic yards of surface soil containing elevated lead concentrations.

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 seven remediation alternatives, and a recommendation for the most appropriate cleanup option for the site, including procedures for achieving proposed cleanup goals.

Clean-up Alternatives: The Draft RAW presents an evaluation of alternatives that could be used to mitigate potential health risks at AOC 056 DU06. 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 056 DU06.

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 lead-contaminated soil in place and limit access to the site by means of institutional controls and physical fencing of the site.
3. In-situ soil stabilization: This alternative, which changes waste characteristics to immobilize contaminants, proposes remediation of chemicals of concern within AOC 056 DU06 and confirmation sampling once remediation is complete.
4. Ex-situ soil stabilization: This alternative proposes to apply soil stabilization treatments to excavated soil and reuse it in the excavated areas upon completion of ex-situ treatment. Once remediation is complete, Land Use Controls will be implemented to prevent unrestricted reuse of the AOC.

5. **Capping in Place 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.
6. **Excavation, Waste Consolidation, and Capping with Land Use Controls:** Under this alternative, contaminated soil would be excavated, removed, and transported to a Waste Consolidation Area for consolidation and capping with Land Use Controls. Once remediation is complete, confirmation sampling will be performed.
7. **Excavation and Off-site Disposal:** This alternative proposes to remove contaminated soil from the AOC and conduct post-excavation soil sampling to confirm that soil cleanup goals have been met.

Alternative 1 was determined to be not protective of human health as contaminated soil would remain on-site without controls. Alternative 2 is not recommended as it would not treat the contaminated soil and would instead rely on land use controls to prevent possible exposures to lead. Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6 are not recommended because the contaminated soil would remain on-site and need to be managed/controlled in the future. 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 clean-up alternatives, DTSC and DOE recommend Alternative 7: Excavation and Off-site Disposal of soil. This alternative proposes to remove the contaminated soil permanently within AOC 056 DU06 and store it in a permitted landfill. AOC 056 DU06 would be clean-closed with no further land use restrictions.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Excavate contaminated soil to an estimated depth of 1-4 ft below ground surface, based on the results from previous sampling events.
- Collect post-excavation soil samples to confirm chemicals of concern 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 excavated areas with clean soil and re-grade.

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 the start of work and maintained each day by applying Best Management Practices, which will include: 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 visitors 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 from March 28 through April 26, 2018. 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 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



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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 Community Update or the Draft RAW, please contact:

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