

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 125-013

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) 125-013*, 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. Area of Concern (AOC) 125-013 was historically categorized as a drilling mud sump.

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 approximately 2,230 cubic yards (cy) of soil contaminated by lead, benzo(a)pyrene, and naphthalene at AOC 125-013. The Draft RAW provides a description of AOC 125-013 and the proposed cleanup activities. These corrective measures are necessary to obtain DTSC approval for closure of AOC 125-013 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 125-013. The Draft RAW, CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration, and other project related 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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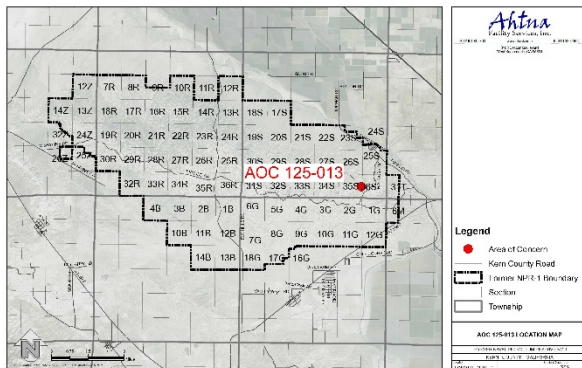


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Site Location: The former NPR-1 is divided into a series of townships and ranges. AOC 125-013 is located in the eastern portion of the former NPR-1 in Section 35, T30S/R24E. AOC 125-013 is within an active oil field, which is closed to the public.



AOC 125-013 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 125-013.

AOC 125-013 was historically categorized as a drilling mud sump measuring 3,921 square feet and is one of 16 subareas within AOC 125 that were closed or abandoned prior to 1987.

Previous Site Investigations: In 2013, DOE performed a site investigation at AOC 125-013 to assess whether there had been releases of chemicals of potential concern that

pose a risk to human health into the surface and subsurface soil. Sampling was performed to assess soil from 0-24 feet below ground surface. Analysis of soil samples identified lead, benzo(a)pyrene, and naphthalene concentrations exceeding risk-based screening levels to a maximum depth of 13.5 feet below ground surface.

Removal Action Objectives: Previous analytical and risk evaluations have indicated that chemicals of concern (COCs), including lead, benzo(a)pyrene and naphthalene are present in soil at concentrations that may impact human health if exposure occurs. The primary objective of this 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 a recommendation for 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 would mitigate potential health risks at AOC 125-013. 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 125-013.

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 and limit access 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 COCs within AOC 125-013 and confirmation sampling once remediation is complete.
4. Ex Situ Soil Stabilization: This alternative proposes excavation and stabilization of contaminated soil at AOC 125-013. Once remediation is complete, confirmation sampling would be performed.
5. Excavation, Waste Consolidation, and Capping with Land Use Controls: This alternative proposes to excavate and haul contaminated soil to a consolidation area where soil from various sites would

be placed and covered with an engineered cap.

6. Excavation and Off-site Disposal: This alternative proposes excavation, removal, and off-site disposal of contaminated soil at a permitted landfill.

Alternative 1 was determined to be not protective of human health. 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 contaminants. Alternatives 3 and 4 are not recommended due to the excessive cost necessary to implement. Alternative 5 is not recommended because there is no consolidation area in place. In addition, there would remain a capped area on site that would need to be maintained. Alternative 6 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 6, Excavation and Off-site Disposal of soil. This alternative proposes to remove the contaminated soil permanently within AOC 125-013 and store it in a permitted landfill. AOC 125-013 would be clean closed with no further land use restrictions.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Excavate approximately 2,230 cy of contaminated soil, based on the results from previous sampling events. The volume of contaminated soil to be removed is estimated based on the depth of excavation.
- 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 an permitted landfill.
- Backfill excavated areas with clean soil and re-grade.
- 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 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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