

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

DTSC PROPOSES A CLEANUP PLAN FOR THE FORMER FRESNO 2 MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) proposed cleanup plan, called a draft Remedial Action Plan (draft RAP), for the former Fresno 2 manufactured gas plant (MGP), at Mariposa Street, between F and G streets in Fresno, California 93706 (Site). PG&E is voluntarily investigating and cleaning up the Site, which currently is the location of a commercial business, a former restaurant and a parking lot.

The MGP operated at the Site from 1881 to 1919. As was common practice at the time, byproducts from the gas-making process were left buried on-Site. Contaminants in soil include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. The draft RAP proposes to remediate approximately 45,000 tons of contaminated soil using a combination of excavation and off-Site disposal as well as treating some soil on-Site. Upon completion of cleanup activities, the goal would be to

Public Comment Period



May 2 to 31, 2016

DTSC invites you to review and comment on the draft RAP and related California Environmental Quality Act documents during the 30-day public comment period beginning May 2 and ending May 31, 2016. All comments must be received no later than May 31, 2016. Please send comments to:

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Public Meeting: DTSC will hold a public meeting to provide information on the draft RAP, answer questions and obtain public comments.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Azteca Theater

838 F Street, Fresno, CA 93706

restore the Site parking lot to residential standards and the remainder of the Site for commercial and industrial use. DTSC is the state agency responsible for providing approval of the draft RAP and overseeing all remediation activities.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

From 1881 to 1919, the MGP operated along Mariposa Street, between F and G streets in Fresno, California 93706. Gas manufacturing involved heating oil or coal in a generator or oven to produce combustible fuel gas. The gas was then purified, stored in large tanks and distributed to customers for lighting, cooking and heating. The process produced a number of by-products, including tars, light oils, sludge and lampblack (a fine soot). PG&E acquired the plant in 1905 when the company was formed and subsequently sold the parcels. A commercial business, former restaurant and parking lot now reside on the Site.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Since 2010, several environmental investigations have been conducted at the Site to determine the extent of old gas plant residues in soil and soil gas (the air between soil particles). These investigations have identified varying levels of PAHs, TPH, VOCs and metals located at a depth of between one to 70 feet below ground surface.

HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) concluded the Site, in its current condition, does not present a significant risk to current on- and off-Site populations, but that mitigation measures, or other forms of risk management, are needed to ensure long-term protection of human health and the environment.

CLEANUP OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The draft RAP summarizes the nature and extent of impacts to soil and soil gas, and identifies proposed alternatives for remediating the Site. Cleanup alternatives were evaluated based on a variety of factors including effectiveness, feasibility, regulatory and public acceptance, overall protection of human health and the environment and cost.

Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated:

Alternative 1: No Action — The Site would be left in its current condition. This is used as a baseline to which all other alternatives are compared.

Alternative 2: Excavation and On-Site Treatment via Ex-situ Thermal Desorption and Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) and Institutional Controls — Some areas of soil would be excavated for off-Site disposal, and other areas would be excavated and treated on-Site through the use of heat and a vapor extraction system. When possible, extracted vapors would be reused as a secondary fuel source for the on-Site treatment system. Other vapors would be treated with an oxidizer or granulated active carbon. Institutional controls would be implemented to restrict inaccessible areas of the Site to industrial/commercial uses.

Alternative 3: Excavation and On-Site Treatment via In-situ Stabilization/Solidification and Institutional Controls — Some areas of soil would be excavated for off-Site disposal, other areas would be stabilized by mixing contaminated soil with cement slurry and grout to solidify soil. Institutional controls would be implemented to restrict inaccessible areas of the Site to industrial/commercial uses.



Alternative 4: Excavation and Off-Site Disposal and Institutional Controls — All accessible contaminated soil would be excavated for off-Site disposal. Institutional controls would be implemented to restrict inaccessible areas of the Site to industrial/commercial uses.

Alternative 5: Excavation, Source Removal/Replacement and On-Site Treatment via In-situ Thermal Desorption with SVE and Institutional Controls — Some areas of soil would be excavated for off-Site disposal. Additional soil would be excavated as part of the removal of a former oil-holder. This soil would be placed back in the excavation and treated along with additional Site soil through the use of heat and a vapor extraction system. When possible, extracted vapors would be reused as a secondary fuel source for the on-Site treatment system. Other vapors would be treated with an oxidizer or granulated active carbon. Institutional controls would be implemented to restrict inaccessible areas of the Site to industrial/commercial uses.

Alternative 6: Excavation, Disposal of Source Materials and On-Site Treatment via In-situ Thermal Desorption and SVE and Institutional Controls — Some areas of soil would be excavated for off-Site disposal and other areas would be treated while in the ground through the use of heat and a vapor extraction system. When possible, extracted vapors would be reused as a secondary fuel source for the on-Site treatment system. Other vapors would be treated with an oxidizer or granulated active carbon. Institutional controls would be implemented to restrict inaccessible areas of the Site to industrial/commercial uses.

All alternatives include placement of a deed restriction on portions of the property to limit certain types of future land use.

PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

Based on the evaluation of cleanup alternatives, Alternative 5 is recommended because it offers long-term protection of human health and the environment, while also minimizing disruption to the community and the environment.

If the draft RAP is approved, the following activities would be conducted.

- Excavation and off-Site disposal of impacts to a maximum depth of 16 feet in select on-Site and off-Site areas;
- Excavation of soil and removal of a former oil holder located 25 feet below the ground;
- Placement of soil removed with the oil holder back into the excavation;
- In-place treatment of that soil and certain impacted areas to a depth of 70 feet below ground surface with a sustainable technology that uses heat to vaporize former gas plant residues;
- Restoration of the Site upon completion of cleanup activities; and
- Implementation of land use restrictions for select areas of the Site where impacts remain.

Cleanup activities are expected to begin in late 2016. Trucks will off-haul roughly 215 loads of excavated soil and import approximately 125 loads of backfill material from a local source. The cleanup would be performed in accordance with project-specific health and safety and traffic control management plans, and in accordance with all necessary permits. Environmental controls, including air-, dust- and noise-monitoring and suppression, would protect the surrounding community during the project.



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC conducted an Initial Study that determined the proposed project would not have a significant environmental impact. DTSC decided a Mitigated Negative Declaration was the appropriate document to prepare under CEQA. DTSC is seeking comments on the adequacy of the analysis contained in the Initial Study and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.

NEXT STEPS

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Responsiveness Summary. This document will list the comments received and how they were considered prior to making a final decision on the draft RAP. The Responsiveness Summary will be placed in the information repositories listed below and sent to those who submit comments.

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAP, CEQA documents and other-Site related documents, which are available at the information repositories listed below:

Fresno County Library
2420 Mariposa St.
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 600-7323 - call for hours.

DTSC - File Room
1515 Tollhouse Rd.
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-3901
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

EnviroStor Database: Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets, and other Site-related information are available online at DTSC's EnviroStor website: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the draft cleanup plan or to be added to the Site mailing list, contact one of the following DTSC representatives:

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For media inquiries only, please contact:
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