



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The mission of  
the Department  
of Toxic  
Substances  
Control is to  
provide the  
highest level of  
safety, and to  
protect public  
health and the  
environment  
from toxic  
harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet #13, November 2009

## Five-Year Review Completed

### Palos Verdes Landfill is Safe and Well-Maintained

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) announces the conclusion of the public comment period and completion of the Five-Year Review for the Palos Verdes Landfill. Findings of the Five-Year Review indicate that the environmental control systems currently in place at the Palos Verdes Landfill continue to be effective in protecting human health and the environment. The Five-Year Review concludes with recommendations for continued operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the environmental control systems implemented for groundwater, landfill gas, and soil cover. These environmental control systems will be subject to another review in five years.



Palos Verdes Landfill – View to the West

#### INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth fact sheet provided during the Five-Year Review. This fact sheet describes the purpose of the Five-Year Review, summarizes DTSC's community outreach efforts during the public comments period, and announces the completion and release of the final Five-Year Review document.

#### PURPOSE OF THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

As documented in the 1995 Remedial Investigation Report for the Palos Verdes Landfill, groundwater contamination was first discovered at the Site in the early 1980s. As a result, a comprehensive Remedial Investigation and an associated Feasibility Study were conducted between 1988 and 1995 to characterize the nature and extent of contamination at and from the Site, to evaluate potential health risks, and to determine appropriate remedial measures. A Remedial Action Plan was prepared based on findings of the Remedial Investigation and the subsequent Feasibility Study.

To verify that remedial measures implemented at the Palos Verdes Landfill continue to meet all remedial action objectives, DTSC reviews facility performance every five years. The first of these five-year reviews started in 2004. Major elements evaluated during the Five-Year Review include:

- *Groundwater Protection Systems*
- *Gas Collection and Control System (Surface Air and Subsurface Gas)*
- *Soil Cover*
- *Stormwater*
- *Wastewater*
- *An Updated Health Risk Assessment*

These elements were evaluated and technically assessed for protectiveness during the Five-Year Review to answer three key questions:

- Is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents?
- Are the remedial action objectives used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

As the first five-year review performed for the Palos Verdes Landfill, the scope of this review was modified and expanded to include multiple special studies in response to requests and concerns from the community. The final Five-Year Review document as a result, has become an extensively comprehensive reference not only for typical elements required for evaluation in a five-year review, but also a compilation of evaluations, findings, and discussions that thoroughly addressed concerns expressed by members of the community.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

On March 5, 2009, DTSC announced the completion of the Five-Year Review and the commencement of a 60-day public comment period on March 9, 2009. DTSC distributed Fact Sheet #12 to 3,700 residents to inform the community about the completion of the Five-Year Review and to provide information on the public comment process. An electronic version of the Five-Year Review document was made available on DTSC's website and EnviroStor shortly before the public comment period started:

[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=19490181](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19490181)

Paper copies of the Five-Year Review document were delivered to two local libraries, Peninsula Center Library and Torrance Civic Center Library, for public reference during the comment period.

At the invitation of the City of Rolling Hills Estates, DTSC provided a presentation and reported findings of the Five-Year Review to elected officials and community members on March 10, 2009 at the Rolling Hills Estates City Council Meeting. During the meeting, DTSC granted a 30-day extension of the public comment period at the request of the Citizens Advisory Board. A subsequent 30-day extension was granted at another request from the Citizens Advisory Board, revising the end of the public comment period to July 8, 2009.

An open house and public comment meeting was held on April 27, 2009 at the South Coast Botanic Garden. The purpose of the meeting was to provide opportunity for the public to become more informed of the findings from the Five-Year Review, engage in dialogue and ask questions of DTSC's technical staff to address outstanding concerns or comments about the Palos Verdes Landfill. During the open house and public comment sessions of the meeting, DTSC received and responded to questions from the community. DTSC responded to the questions posed during the meeting and questions submitted during the public comment period. Responses to comments are documented in Appendix K of the Five-Year Review and are available at DTSC's EnviroStor website.

## **COMPLETION OF THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW**

The technical assessment of the environmental control systems and conclusions of the associated special studies performed during the Five-Year Review indicate that the Palos Verdes Landfill is safe, well maintained, and protective of human health and the environment. After considering all public comments received, DTSC concludes:

- The remedial systems are functioning as intended by the decision documents with respect to all media (groundwater, surface air and subsurface gas, soil cover, stormwater, and wastewater);
- The remedial action objectives used at the time of remedy selection are still valid;
- No other information has come to light that calls into question the protectiveness of the remedy.

Therefore, DTSC approves the Five-Year Review document, dated March 2009, in its entirety with the inclusion of Appendix K, Public Comment Period Responsiveness Summary.

### **WHERE TO FIND THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW**

The final Five-Year Review document is available on DTSC's website at:

[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=19490181](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19490181)

To review information at DTSC, please call Julie Johnson, File Room Coordinator, at (714) 484-5337, or ext 5336, or fax (714) 484-5318 for an appointment.

### **AGENCY CONTACTS**

DTSC encourages the public to contact the individuals below to address any questions or concerns regarding the Palos Verdes Landfill.

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This is the fifth and final fact sheet provided by DTSC on this Five-Year Review. To review past fact sheet information, please visit DTSC's EnviroStor.