



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Gray Davis
Governor

March 12, 2003

***Para información en español por favor comuníquese con
Leticia Hernández al numero (714) 484-5488.***

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE FORMER PASADENA MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT (MGP) SITE

Dear Community Member:

We invite you to complete and return the enclosed community survey regarding a planned soil investigation at the former Pasadena Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site in Pasadena, California. The site consists of three properties: 815, 835, and 859 S. Raymond Avenue, which are currently occupied by the Rose Palace, a storage yard, and an office building. Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), is overseeing the investigation.

The primary purpose of the investigation is to characterize the site with respect to manufactured gas plant residues found in the subsurface. The site is covered with concrete, asphalt and rock which provide a protective barrier between potential chemicals and the public (i.e. occupants, tenants, workers and visitors at the site and the surrounding community). As there is no direct exposure route to the soil, the site is considered health protective in its current state and there is no immediate danger to the public. Similarly, the planned investigation will be conducted in accordance with an approved health and safety plan that will protective of the public.

This survey will help us determine your concerns so that we can keep you informed and involved throughout the investigation and any proposed cleanup plans. Please return the community survey by March 25, 2003, to the address at the top of the survey form.

In the early 1900s, before natural gas became readily available, consumers used "manufactured gas" made from coal or oil for heating, cooking and lighting. At that time, approximately 150 manufactured gas plants (MGPs) operated in California. The gas manufacturing operations created a sooty residue called lampblack. Lampblack is a powdery or granular substance which usually contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or (PAHs).

The former Pasadena MGP operated from 1886 to 1909. The three properties that will soon undergo investigation were used mainly for storage of manufactured gas. These storage

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.
For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.*

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facilities were dismantled by 1962. The Gas Company conducted several investigations of these properties in 1992. They recently signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to conduct more investigations, which will include:

- Drilling soil borings and sampling them for chemicals associated with MGP operations.
- Conducting a risk assessment to determine if the site needs to be cleaned up for future uses, i.e. residential.
- Developing feasible cleanup options and finding the one that we feel is the best plan, if needed, for protecting human health and the environment.
- Presenting this proposal for public review and comment.

Thank you in advance for completing and returning the enclosed survey. If you have any questions please contact either Project Manager Anthony Espinoza at (818) 551-2948 (email aespinoz@dtsc.ca.gov), or myself at (714) 484-5488 (email lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Leticia Hernandez
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Enclosure: Community Survey Questionnaire