

DTSC Proposes Cleanup for Salz Leather, Inc. Site

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing a cleanup plan for the Salz Leather, Inc. site, a former tannery, located at 1040 River Street in Santa Cruz, California. The investigations found chemicals associated with former tannery operations in the soil and groundwater. Arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, diesel, fuel oil and solvents were found in the soil. Hexavalent chromium, fuel oil and solvents such as benzene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride were found in the groundwater. The cleanup plan, referred to as a Draft Removal Action Workplan, describes the proposed cleanup activities to address these chemicals.

We encourage you to review and comment on the proposed Draft Removal Action Workplan. This document, and other site-related documents, are available for your review at the information repositories listed on page 4.

Site Location and Past Operations

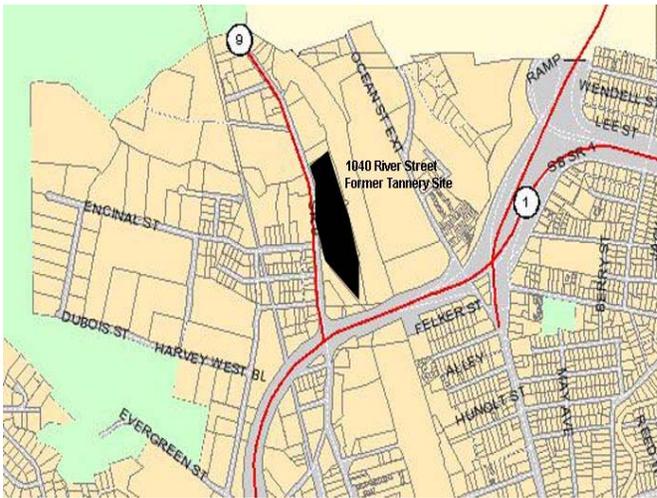
The Salz Leather site is located at 1040 River Street, Santa Cruz. The site is next to the San Lorenzo River along River Street, north of the intersection of Highways 1 and 9 (see map on page 2). The Site was used as a tannery from 1855 until 2001. Leather production between 1855 and 1960 was primarily vegetable-based. From 1960 until ending operations in 2001, the tannery used various hazardous chemicals in the tanning and finishing processes. The tannery closed down in 2001. The Site is currently used for storage by an adjacent business and by local law enforcement agencies for training purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period beginning August 30, 2005 and ending September 30, 2005. DTSC will consider and respond to all public comments before making a final decision on these sites.

The Draft Removal Action Workplan and other project documents are available at the local information repositories listed above. Please send your comments postmarked by September 30, 2005 to Janet Naito, DTSC, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710 or email at jnaito@dtsc.ca.gov. All emailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than 5 p.m. on September 30, 2005. For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact Nancy Cook at DTSC, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710 or by phone at (510) 540-3923 or by email at ncook@dtsc.ca.gov. A public meeting will be considered if a written request identifying the issues to be raised is made to Nancy Cook by September 30, 2005.





Site Location Map

Site Investigation Results

Several investigations and cleanups were conducted during Salz Leather, Inc.'s operations. Nine underground storage tanks were excavated and removed from the Site during 1989-1990 under permit and inspection by the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department (SCCEHD).

Salz conducted an environmental investigation in 1992. Based upon the results, soil impacted by gasoline, solvents, and motor oil was removed and four groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 1992. One additional well was installed in 1996. Surface water samples were collected in 1994 and 1995.

After operations ceased in 2001, Salz began the process of closing their facility under the SCCEHD oversight. Additional soil, surface water, and San Lorenzo River sediment samples were collected in 2002 and 2003. In July 2004, DTSC signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with Salz to assume responsibility for oversight of this project. Additional soil, soil gas, groundwater and surface water samples were collected and analyzed. Based on the investigation results, most of the tannery operation areas (labeled 1 through 12 below and on the map on page 3) contained some level of impact from the former industrial activities. Chemicals were detected above site cleanup goals in the following areas:

1. Arsenic was detected in the soil in the former south sludge lagoons.
2. Diesel was detected in the soil in the former north sludge lagoons.
3. Hexavalent chromium was found in the soil and

groundwater in the chromium processing area.

4. Arsenic was found in soil below the Beamhouse.
5. Fuel oil, solvents, cadmium, arsenic and lead were detected in shallow soil in the former compounding area.
6. The solvent benzene has been detected in the groundwater in former gasoline storage tank area just above its cleanup goal.
7. The solvents, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE) and vinyl chloride (VC) have been found in groundwater in the lacquer shed area.
8. Arsenic was detected in the soil in the leather treatment area.
9. Fuel oil was detected in the soil in the spray booth area.
10. Arsenic was detected in the soil in the spray machine sump area.
11. Arsenic was detected in the soil in the riverwalk area adjacent to the spray machine sump area.
12. Fuel oil was detected in the soil and groundwater in the wastewater treatment area and in soil under some portions of the facility drainage (flume) system.

What Are The Cleanup Goals?

Cleanup goals were developed for the Site based upon U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DTSC guidance. The standard policies of the SCCEHD and Central Coast Water Board were also considered.

The following cleanup goals were set for soil:

- arsenic – 8 ppm (parts per million), the naturally-occurring background concentration of arsenic in the soil.
- hexavalent chromium - 30 ppm in the upper five feet of soil ,based upon the potential for direct contact with soil and 2 ppm, below five feet to protect groundwater.
- gasoline - 100 ppm for gasoline, based upon SCCEHS and Water Board guidance.
- diesel, motor oil and fuel oil -1,000 ppm, based upon taste and odor thresholds identified by the Water Board and general practices of SCCEHS.

The groundwater at the Site is designated as a potential drinking water source and will be cleaned up to drinking water standards.

Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated

Five cleanup alternatives were evaluated to address the chemicals found in soil above site cleanup goals and four cleanup alternatives were evaluated to address chemicals found in groundwater above site cleanup goals.

The soil cleanup alternatives include:

- No action;
- Soil excavation and offsite disposal
- Onsite treatment of excavated soil containing hexavalent chromium and reuse onsite
- Soil excavation, offsite disposal and capping
- Capping
- Soil Vapor Extraction

The groundwater cleanup alternatives included:

- No action
- Continued Groundwater Monitoring
- Addition of Chemicals to Groundwater To Treat Volatile Organic Compounds

Cleanup alternatives were evaluated for each area containing chemicals above cleanup goals. Each of the alternatives were then evaluated and compared based upon the effectiveness, implementability and cost of the alternatives.

DTSC Recommended Cleanup Plan

Proposed cleanup alternatives recommended for each operation area.

Soil Excavation and Offsite Disposal is proposed in areas where soil contamination is located near the ground surface and easily accessible. These areas include the former compounding area, the leather treatment area, the spray booth, and the spray machine sump (Areas 5, 8, 9 and 10 on the above map). Approximately 450 cubic yards of soil containing arsenic, cadmium, lead, fuel oil and/or solvents will be dug up and disposed of at an appropriate offsite landfill.

Source Area Soil Excavation and Offsite Disposal and Continued Groundwater Monitoring is proposed in the chromium processing area (Area 3) and wastewater treatment area (Area 12). These are areas where contamination extends through the soil to groundwater. Years of groundwater monitoring indicate that contaminants are naturally breaking down into less toxic components. Approximately



**Tannery Operation Areas 1 through 12
(described on page 2)**

2700 cubic yards of excavated contaminated soil will be transported to an appropriate offsite landfill.

Capping is proposed in areas where contaminated soil exists below either a minimum of two feet of clean soil or areas that are currently covered with asphalt or concrete (e.g., historic building foundations and parking areas). These areas include the riverwalk area adjacent to the spray machine sump, the Beamhouse and the north and south sludge lagoons (Areas 1, 2, 4, and 11 on the map on page 3). Arsenic and/or fuel oil have been detected in these areas above site cleanup goals. However, pavement, two feet of clean soil or building foundations currently prevent contact with this material.

Soil vapor extraction and treatment and continued groundwater monitoring is recommended to address solvents in the lacquer shed area (Area 7). Solvents readily vaporize from the soil and groundwater into the soil vapor. The system will extract the soil vapor containing these solvents and treat it using granular activated carbon under a permit from the local Air District.

Continued groundwater monitoring is proposed for the former underground gasoline storage tank area (Area 6) until benzene levels are below its site cleanup goal and for the former north sludge lagoons (Area 2).

A Deed Restriction will be placed on the Site to ensure that areas where chemicals remain in soil at levels above site cleanup goals remain capped and are not developed for sensitive uses such as single-family housing, hospitals, schools or day care centers without further assessment and cleanup. An Operation and Maintenance Plan and Agreement will be executed to ensure that 1) the soil in all capped areas is managed appropriately; 2) future groundwater monitoring requirements are fulfilled; and 3) the soil vapor extraction system operates appropriately.

What You May See During the Cleanup

If the proposed cleanup plan is approved, you may see workers on the site using standard construction machinery as well as safety gear. As soil is dug up, it will either be loaded into trucks that will transport it to an appropriate offsite disposal facility or it will be stockpiled, tested and covered.

If the stockpiled soil contains chemicals above cleanup goals, then it will be loaded into trucks and disposed of at an appropriate offsite disposal facility. If the soil does not contain chemicals above site cleanup goals, it will be used to fill in excavated areas. The work is anticipated to take approximately four to six weeks to complete.

As the soil is dug up, dust will be controlled by spraying water, as needed, prior to daily work activities and during excavation/loading activities. Air monitoring will be conducted during these activities to verify the effectiveness of the dust control measures.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

As required by California state law (the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA) we studied the possible effects the proposed cleanup could have on the environment. The study found that the proposed cleanup will have no negative impact on the environment. You can review findings of the study in a document called a Negative Declaration.

It is available for review at the Information Repositories listed to the right.

Notice to hearing impaired individuals

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (888) 877-5378 to reach the Public Participation Specialist.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

For More Information

If you would like more information about this Site or have questions about the Draft Removal Action Workplan, please contact Janet Naito, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3833 or email at jnaito@dtsc.ca.gov.

For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact Nancy Cook at (510) 540-3923 or email at ncook@dtsc.ca.gov.

For media questions, please contact Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732 or email at ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov.

Information Repositories

The draft Removal Action Workplan, CEQA Negative Declaration and other site-related documents are available for review at the locations listed below:

City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency
337 Locust Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 420-5150
M-F 9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, #200
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Please call for appointment)

Central Branch
Santa Cruz Public Library
224 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 420-6700
M-Th 10 am - 8 pm, Fri-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 1 pm - 5 pm