

February 2005  
Fact Sheet

**DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.**

*State of California*



*California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency*



## Soil and Groundwater Cleanup Proposed at Former Sargent Industries



The public is invited to review and comment on a plan to clean up chemicals in the soil and groundwater at the former Sargent Industries facility in the 2500 block of East 55th and East 56th Streets in Huntington Park.

The chemicals include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as cleaning solvents, and hexavalent chromium, a metal also known as Chromium 6. These came from past industrial activities at the site.

The cleanup plan is described in a Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), available at the locations listed on the last page of this fact sheet. We also invite you to review the Draft Negative Declaration, our finding that the proposed cleanup actions will not significantly affect human health and the environment.

The cleanup team at this site is made up of our agency, the former site owner, and their contractors. Our agency is the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the site investigation and cleanup.

This fact sheet describes the proposed cleanup and tells you how to submit comments. You

### **Public Comment Period** February 22, 2005 through March 28, 2005

Written comments on the proposed cleanup plan and draft Negative Declaration must be postmarked or e-mailed by March 28, 2005 and sent to:

Pete Cooke, Project Manager  
Dept of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
E-mail [pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Open House Meeting** March 9, 2005 – 6:00PM

Gage Middle School  
2880 E. Gage Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255

This meeting is your opportunity to speak one-on-one with project staff and have your questions answered about the proposed cleanup. You may also submit oral and written comments at the meeting.

### **Meeting Accessibility**

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Derrick Alatorre at (714) 484-5354 at least one week before the meeting.

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

can also learn more about it and give us your comments by attending the public meeting on March 9, 2005. (see box on front page).

## **Proposal is to continue cleanup systems already in place**

Over the last several years the cleanup team has removed contaminated soil from several parts of the site. In 2002 we also put in a system to clear the chemical vapors out of the rest of the contaminated soil. This is called a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. It works by pulling chemical vapors out of the soil through a system of underground pipes using vacuum suction. Finally, we put in a groundwater monitoring network to make sure no more contamination is reaching the groundwater below the site. The basic proposal in the Draft RAP is to continue using the SVE and groundwater monitoring systems, and making sure that the land use remains industrial with a land use covenant.

## **Site was used for industrial manufacturing and testing**

The 5-acre site is in an area that is mainly commercial and industrial. There are a few homes in the neighborhood, and a school about 1/6 mile southeast of the site.

The site was used from the 1920s to the early 1990s for the manufacture and testing of aircraft parts, oil field and marine equipment, and other industrial parts.

## **Past site investigations and cleanup actions**

Two underground storage tanks were removed from the site in 1986. After that the areas around the tank, as well as other

parts of the site, were tested for chemical contamination.

The site is divided into nine areas that include parking lots, manufacturing and industrial buildings, a former outside storage area, and a former underground storage tank area.

In 1993 our agency evaluated the information from the first environmental investigations. We then directed more testing, including the collection and laboratory analysis of soil, soil gas, and groundwater samples. VOCs and chromium were the main chemicals found. In 1999 we sent out a fact sheet describing the results of these tests.

Over the years the cleanup team has taken the following actions at the site. In 1999, an SVE system was installed as an IRM to pull vapors away from buildings and clean it before it is emitted into the atmosphere. Before the system was installed, the Department conducted a 30-day comment period so the public would have the opportunity to have their questions or concerns addressed.

Area 1 – Former Parking Lot, 54<sup>th</sup> and Malabar Streets. This area did not have unsafe levels of chemicals in the soil and didn't need cleanup.

Area 2 – Former Storage Yard, north side of East 55th Street. About 193 cubic yards of shallow soil with VOCs were removed.

Area 3 – Former Ball Screw Plant, southeast corner of 55<sup>th</sup> and Malabar Streets. Piping contaminated with VOCs was removed. The SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the deeper soils.

Area 4 – Former Central Parking Lot, mid-block. An underground storage tank was

removed and the SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the deeper soils.

Area 5 – Former Sargent Controls Building, east of Area 4. About 27 cubic yards of shallow soil with VOCs was removed. The SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the deeper soils.

Area 6 – Former Machine Shop, northeast corner of 56<sup>th</sup> and Malabar Streets. The SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the soil.

Area 7 – Former Underground Storage Tank, just west of the center of the site. 1120 cubic yards of soil with VOCs were removed. The SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the rest of the soil.

Area 8 – Former Testing Labs, east of Areas 6 and 7. About 260 cubic yards of soil with VOCs and chromium were removed. The SVE system was installed to clear out VOCs from the rest of the soil. We also covered the area of contaminated soil with a pavement cap.

Area 9 – Southern Parking Lot, southeast of the intersection of East 56th and Malabar Streets. More than 16 cubic yards of shallow soil with VOCs were removed.

## **Risk levels being reduced**

We performed a study called a Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA) in 2001 and 2002. The HRA was conducted using all historical data from the site and indicated risks and hazards were elevated. However, this is due to data developed prior to installation of interim remedial measures at the site. With the ongoing operation of the soil vapor extraction system and maintenance of a cap the present risk is considerably reduced. Once remediation by SVE is

complete, confirmation soil samples will be collected and risks will be re-evaluated."

## **Cleanup options evaluated**

We looked at several different options for cleaning up the chemicals that remain at the site. Cleanup options must protect public health, have a reasonable cost, and be acceptable to the community. The options were:

**Option 1.** *Taking no action.* This option is only included as a point of comparison to the other methods. It was not chosen because it doesn't protect public health.

**Option 2.** *Groundwater monitoring only.* This option would discontinue operation of the SVE system. We did not choose this option because it would not clean up the contamination in the soil.

**Option 3.** *Groundwater monitoring with continued SVE operation, maintenance of the paved cap over Area 8, and a land use covenant (commonly referred to as a deed restriction).* This option would maintain the current systems that are in place. The land use covenant would ensure that the land use remains industrial and the site will never be used for residences, schools, day care centers, etc. This is the option proposed in the Draft RAP.

**Option 4.** *Everything described in Option 3 plus soil pore water monitoring at Area 8.* This monitoring would check for excess water in the soil which might drive the hexavalent chromium down to ground water. We did not choose this option because the surface is paved and groundwater monitoring already in place gives us enough information.

## Recommended option

We believe Option 3 best meets our goal for effective site cleanup. It would protect future on-site workers and visitors, plants and animals at the site, and the surrounding community.

## Next steps

Before making a final decision, our agency will consider all comments and incorporate them as appropriate. The final cleanup plan will be issued as a Final Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that will be available at the locations listed below. We will respond in writing to all comments in a document called a Response to Comments, which will be included in the Final RAP. Everyone who submitted comments will receive a copy of the Response to Comments.

## Where to send comments

Comments must be postmarked or emailed by March 28, 2005, and sent to:

Pete Cooke  
Project Manager  
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
Email [pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Locations for more information

The draft RAP and draft Negative Declaration, as well as other documents related to this site, are available at the following locations:

**Huntington Park Branch Library**  
6518 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255  
(323) 583-1461  
Closed Fridays and Sundays

**Dept. of Toxic Substances Control**  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
Please call Jone Barrio at (818) 551-2886 to make an appointment Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## DTSC Contacts

If you have questions about this site investigation and cleanup, please call or e-mail:

Pete Cooke  
Project Manager  
(818) 551-2931  
Email [pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov)

Derrick Alatorre,  
Public Participation Specialist  
(714) 484-5474  
Email [dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia  
Public Information Officer  
(818) 551-2176  
email [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Notice to the Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to call Derrick Alatorre at (714) 484-5474 regarding the site.

### DTSC Website

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

**Former Sargent Industries  
Huntington Park, California**

**Draft Remedial Action Plan and Draft Negative Declaration**

You may use this form to:

- send us your written comments
- be added or taken off the mailing list (NOTE: if you received this fact sheet in the mail, then you are already on the mailing list and don't need to be added).

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. If you know of anyone or organizations that would like to be on the project mailing list, please use this form to add that information. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **March 28, 2005**.

Please send this form to Pete Cooke, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California, 91201. You may also e-mail this same information to: [pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pcooke@dtsc.ca.gov).

Please take me off the mailing list

Please add me to the mailing list

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

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*Out mailings are used only for keeping you informed of our activities. We do not routinely release our mailing lists to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.*