



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2006

## Comment Period for the Former Valley Plating Service Site Begins

### INTRODUCTION

Beginning April 5 to May 5, the Department of Toxic Substances Control is holding a 30-day public comment period to accept comments on a document (a draft Removal Action Workplan for groundwater) related to groundwater contaminated with chromium and nickel. Depending on the level and length of exposure to these contaminants, they could have an effect on human health and the environment.

The Valley Plating Company located at 3920 El Cajon, Shasta Lake City, California, 96019, operated an electroplating facility in the town of Shasta Lake City from 1962 through 1989. The primary operation conducted by Valley Plating Company was nickel and chrome plating of vehicle bumpers. Miscellaneous brass and copper plating activities made up the remainder of the business.

In 1990 it was discovered that total chromium, hexavalent chromium, zinc, and nickel existed in site soil. A 1990 Remedial Action Plan, which contained a risk assessment and proposed soil cleanup goals for unrestricted land use, was developed and approved in 1991. At that time only soil cleanup activities were conducted.

When the Remedial Action Plan for soil was approved, there was limited information on groundwater. The Remedial Action Plan for soil concluded that additional groundwater information was needed prior to selecting a groundwater remedy. Since 1989 there have been several monitoring wells constructed on and off the site. Groundwater samples show chromium and nickel remain above drinking water standards. The groundwater contamination plume is currently stabilized and naturally diminishing. Contaminated groundwater is not used for drinking water at this location, so there is no immediate threat

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments on the Valley Plating Site draft Removal Action Workplan for groundwater are being accepted.

April 5 to May 5, 2006

All comments must be submitted by May 5, 2006 and should be addressed to Duane White, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826, (916) 255-3585, [dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov).

Copies of the draft Removal Action Workplan for groundwater and Notice of Exemption are available for review at the Shasta Lake Gateway Library, 4150 Ashby Court, Shasta Lake, CA 96019, 530-275-7490, and at DTSC's Cal Center office in Sacramento. Please contact Duane White to review files at the Cal Center office.



to human health or the environment. The nearest private domestic wells are 1/2 mile down-gradient of the site. According to groundwater data reviewed by DTSC, the current groundwater plume has not moved more than 1/10th of a mile since 1990, and has been decreasing in concentration over time.

### PROPOSED CLEANUP

The goal of the proposed alternative is to reduce the potential human health risk associated with elevated levels of contamination in groundwater. Before a final proposed cleanup method was chosen for the site, several alternative methods were evaluated. The options considered were:

*No Further Action:* Means that nothing will be done to the site at all. The site will stay 'as is';

*Ongoing groundwater monitoring and recording a deed restriction:* This means that continuation of groundwater monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the groundwater plume continues to reduce until cleanup levels are reached. This alternative relies on continued natural degradation of the contaminants. We will put restrictions that limit use of groundwater;

*Pumping and treating the contaminated groundwater and recording of a deed restriction:* this would mean that the contaminated groundwater would be pumped above ground, treated and returned back to the current groundwater aquifer. There would be a deed restriction that would limit the use of groundwater; and,

*In-situ Treatment and Recording a deed restriction.* An example of an in-situ activity is pumping microbes into the groundwater to 'feed on' the contamination, altering it so it was no longer toxic. This alternative also states that a deed restriction would limit use of groundwater after the cleanup occurs.

In order to be considered, the options had to meet the following criteria: must be able to reach the goals and objectives outlined in the draft Removal Action Workplan, must have short and long term effectiveness, must be feasible to implement, and must be cost effective.

Of the alternatives considered, ongoing monitoring and placing a deed restriction was chosen as the most appropriate alternative method.

### EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Before a cleanup method can be approved, it must meet the requirements of a California state law known as the California Environmental Quality Act (commonly referred to as CEQA). The purpose of CEQA is to analyze if a proposed project could impact the environment. DTSC has determined that the proposed cleanup qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA. The Notice of Exemption will be available for review and comment during the 30-day public comment period.

DTSC will not make a decision to approve or amend the draft Removal Action Workplan or Notice of Exemption until the public has had an opportunity to review and provide comment. After addressing the comments received, DTSC will publish its final decision in the Redding Record Searchlight newspaper. In addition, a copy of the final decision and a Response to Comments will be mailed to commenters and to persons requesting a copy.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

When the draft Removal Action Workplan for groundwater is approved, the following activities will occur.

- \* Groundwater monitoring of several wells will continue; and,
- \* A deed restriction will be recorded to limit the groundwater use at the property.
- \* Groundwater monitoring under an Operation and Maintenance Plan will ensure that monitoring of groundwater is continued.
- \* If contaminated groundwater increases and/or moves further offsite, DTSC will consider other treatment options at that time.

### MORE INFORMATION AT THE LIBRARY

The draft Removal Action Workplan for groundwater and the Notice of Exemption are available for public review at the Shasta Lake Gateway Library, 4150 Ashby Court, Shasta Lake, California, 96019, 530-275-7490. These documents are also available for review at the Department of Toxic Substances Control's office located at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826.

### SEND COMMENTS TO

Comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 17, 2006 to the following:

Duane White  
Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3585  
dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have question about the proposed cleanup, please call or e-mail Duane White or Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control, at (916) 255-3575, [hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov).

### MEDIA INQUIRIES

Members of the media are requested to contact Carol Singleton, Public Information Officer, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 255-6578, [csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov).

### NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Duane White at (916) 255-3585.

#### *ARE YOU ON DTSC'S MAILING LIST?*

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:

Heidi Nelson - Former Valley Plating Site  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Please print name and address clearly.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Comment:

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.