



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



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet, May 2009

## Proposed Cleanup Plan at the former Ventura Gas Plant Site Available for Public Review

A draft plan to clean soil contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the **former Ventura Gas Plant Site** is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was submitted by the Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison (referred to as Joint Utilities) for the former gas plant site (Site) under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement signed with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). DTSC's mission is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and cleanup of sites potentially contaminated with hazardous substances.

The Site is approximately 8.5 acres in size; however the current focus is on a smaller portion of the Site, Parcel A. The Site is located near the intersection of Olive Street and McFarlane Drive on 1555 North Olive Street in the City of Buena Vista, California. The Site boundary covers an area from Olive Street to State Highway 33 on the west. *See map on back.*

### Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because long-term exposure (meaning long-term direct contact with soil) to elevated levels of PAHs can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that the Joint Utilities prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil to protect the current and future occupants of the Site. DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

### History and Operations at the Site

The former Ventura Gas Plant operated from 1905 to 1919. During this period gas was manufactured by gasification of oil. During this period, some residuals of oil gasification remained in the soil. From 1919 to 1923, much of the equipment and structures used for MGP operations were no longer in use and were subsequently removed. Beginning in 1923, a wide variety of compressor station equipment was installed on this Site (Parcel A). A compressor station for natural gas has been in operation from 1923 to the present day. The area of focus for the cleanup (i.e., Parcel A), is presently owned by Southern California Gas Company and is used for natural gas compression and delivery. Current users of the western portion of the Site include T&T Truck and Crane Service and C.D. Lyon Construction.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**May 22 to June 22, 2009**

The draft RAW and other related project documents for this Site are available for review at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments postmarked **by June 22, 2009**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Christina Fu, Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630  
[cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia (818) 717-6573*



## Environmental Investigations

Many environmental investigations have been conducted on the Site since 1987. The most recent investigation was conducted by Tetra Tech (a consultant to the Joint Utilities) in 2003, which included 80 soil borings and 7 groundwater monitoring wells installed on the Site. During this investigation, contamination was found in isolated areas of the Site. The main residue of the gasification process described above was lampblack. Lampblack is a powdery or granular substance similar to soot. Lampblack usually contains a group of organic compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

PAHs are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances. As a result of the environmental investigations, DTSC recommended that a plan be developed to cleanup the contaminated soil.

## Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this Site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – On-site Treatment of Soil

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is in compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; is feasible, permanent, and the cost is reasonable.

If alternative 4 is approved, the contaminated soil will be excavated using a backhoe, bulldozer, tracked excavator, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary to a depth of approximately 5 to 15 feet deep below the surface of the ground. The soil will be loaded directly onto trucks covered with tarps and taken off-site. An estimated 15,500 cubic yards (about 860 truckloads) of soil contaminated with PAHs will be excavated and transported to a state-licensed and approved treatment facility in Adelanto, California for treatment, and Chemical Waste Management, in Kettleman City, California for disposal. The treated soil will be recycled but will not be brought back to the Site. The excavation will be backfilled with clean soil, followed by

compacting and grading. Work will occur over a period of approximately six-months. This includes soil removal, transportation, and follow-up soil sampling and analysis.

## Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the Site
- Brushing truck tires exiting the Site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the Site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

## Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

The Joint Utilities plan on performing the cleanup activities between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. An average of approximately 22 truckloads per day of contaminated soil will be removed from the Site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, a flagman will direct trucks as they enter the Site and when they leave the Site by taking Olive Street, heading north to Stanley Avenue. From Stanley Avenue, trucks will then proceed west to State Highway 33 South and then to the 101 Freeway to the state-approved Disposal Facility, TPST in Adelanto, California. The Site is currently secured with a 6-foot high masonry wall and a gate, which will provide security during excavation activities and will eliminate any visual impacts to the surrounding areas. During non-working hours, the access gate will be kept locked.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE document states that the project will not have a negative effect on human health and the environment during the remedial activities because of short project duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soils will be removed, loaded onto trucks and

transported off-site for disposal.

## Next Steps

At the end of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review, consider all public comments, and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who submits a comment and provides their name and address. Removal action field work is expected to begin in Summer 2009. The cleanup for the Site (Parcel A) will take approximately 6 months. After the cleanup process is completed, the Joint Utilities will conduct follow up soil sampling, under the oversight of DTSC, to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and all contaminated soil has been removed. The Joint Utilities will then submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval. Remedial actions for remaining parcels (B and C), if necessary, will be performed following completion of work at Parcel A.

## Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW, Draft NOE and other related documents for the proposed cleanup at the former Ventura Gas Plant site are available for review at the following locations:

### Ventura County Library (Avenue Library)

#### *Main Office*

606 North Ventura Avenue

Ventura, CA 93001

Phone: (805) 643-6393

Monday: 11 a.m. -1 p.m., 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Wednesday: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

## Department of Toxic Substances Control

### *Regional Records Office*

9211 Oakdale Avenue

Chatsworth, CA 91311

(818) 717-6521 Call Vivien Tutaan for an appointment, Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Site documents are also available at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for public use.

## Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about this Fact Sheet or the Draft RAW, please contact:

### *Kevin Shaddy*

DTSC Project Manager

(559) 297-3929

[kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov)

### *Christina Fu*

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(714) 816-1982

(866) 495-5651 Toll-Free

[cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)

### *Media Inquiries:*

#### *Jeanne Garcia*

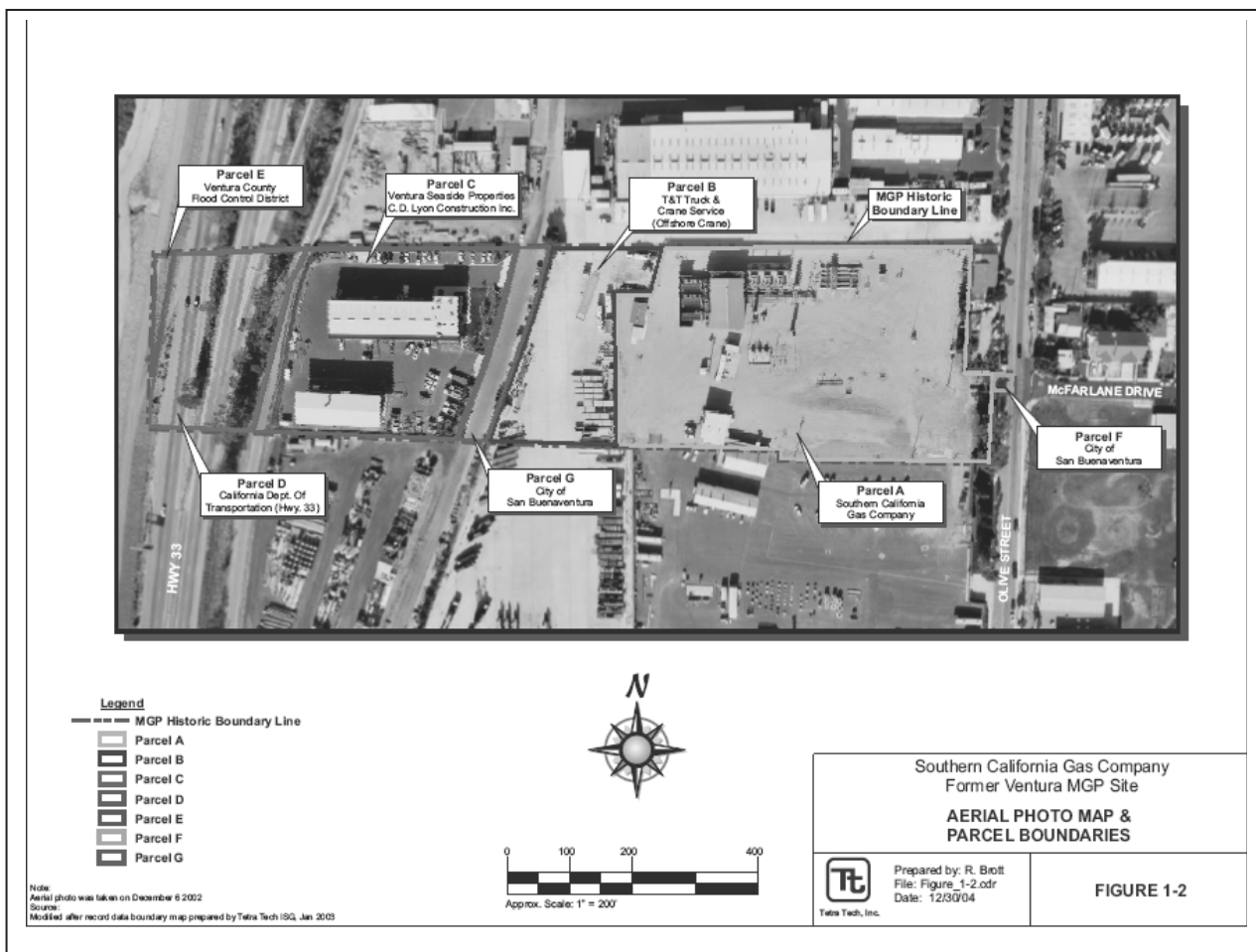
DTSC Public Information Officer

(818) 717-6573

[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1(888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Christina Fu at (714) 816-1982 regarding the project.



**Christina Fu, Public Participation Specialist**  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630

**Inside: Information on the former Ventura Gas Plant Site, Ventura, CA**

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