

May 2004
FACT SHEET

Whittaker-Bermite Facility Santa Clarita, California



Please Comment on Our Proposed Soil Cleanup

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

DTSC is one of six Departments with in 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*



The area at the Whittaker Property, where contaminants in the soil require cleanup.

This fact sheet describes our proposal to clean up contaminants in the soil at the Whittaker-Bermite Property located at 22116 West Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, California. The contaminants in the soil that require cleanup are perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs); these chemicals were used in the manufacturing and testing of fireworks, dynamite, oil field explosives and munitions.

We invite you to review and comment on our cleanup plan and to attend the public meeting. (See box at right.) The cleanup plan is called a Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP). We also invite you to review the Draft Negative Declaration and our finding that the proposed cleanup actions will not significantly affect the environment.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will oversee the cleanup to make sure that work conducted by Whittaker-Bermite and its contractors meets all applicable laws and regulations.

Open House & Public Meeting

May 19, 2004

5:00 p.m. Open House

6:00 p.m. Public Meeting

Santa Clarita City Council Chambers

23920 Valencia Boulevard

Santa Clarita, California 91355

At this meeting we will discuss the proposed cleanup, answer questions, and take your oral and written comments.

Public Comment Period

May 10 through June 11, 2004

Written comments on the Draft RAP and Draft Negative Declaration must be postmarked by June 11, 2004, and sent to Jose Diaz at the address listed on page 3.

The Draft RAP and Draft Negative Declaration are available at the information repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Site history

Since 1934, various manufacturing activities took place at the site under the ownership and operation of several companies. These activities involved the manufacturing or processing of materials related to fireworks, dynamite, oil field explosives and munitions.

Proposed cleanup for the site

This draft RAP addresses the clean up of shallow soils and groundwater in the area designated as Operable Unit 1(OU1). OU1 is primarily located along the eastern portion of the site bordered by Golden Valley Road on mostly rugged topography. The dominant features are the east-west ridge along the surface trace of the San Gabriel Fault and the deep canyons descending to the north and the Oro Fino Canyon draining to the southwest.

We did a health-risk assessment that concluded that the perchlorate in the soil in the area known as OU1D poses a health risk to potential future users of the site.

We are still investigating the groundwater to determine the extent of the contaminant plume and the cleanup methodology. The current cleanup proposal is only for soils.

What are the proposed cleanup options?

Our goal is to clean up perchlorate and VOCs in the soil. Because of the different chemical and physical properties of the contaminants and the different types of soils in the impacted areas, we evaluated seven soil remediation alternatives that would protect human health and the environment. The seven alternatives were:

Alternative 1 - Taking no action (we always have to include this alternative just as a point of comparison);

Alternative 2 - Soil-Vapor Extraction (SVE);

Alternative 3 - Excavation of the soil in combination with off site disposal;

Alternative 4 - Excavation of the soil in combination with anaerobic bioremediation;

Alternative 5 - Excavation of the soil in combination with soil washing;

Alternative 6 - Excavation of the soil in combination with chemical oxidation; and

Alternative 7 - Combination of Alternatives 2-6.

Preferred cleanup remedy

We propose to clean up the perchlorate and VOCs using a combination of the remediation alternatives (Alternative 7). Alternative 1 (no action) is not acceptable because it doesn't reduce the health risk. Alternative 2, SVE will remove VOCs depending on soil types, but will not remove perchlorate. Alternative 3, Excavation of soils with high concentrations of VOCs is restricted by air quality rules and regulations. Alternatives 4 & 5, Bioremediation and soil washing have been effective in the treatment of perchlorate contaminated soils, but not with all VOC contaminated soils. Alternative 6, Chemical Oxidation is effective in some soils with low concentrations of VOCs, but does not have any effect on perchlorate contaminated soils. For the reasons listed above, Alternatives 2 through 6 will not be protective of human health and the environment when applied as stand alone remediation alternatives.

Description of Remediation Alternatives

SVE involves the use of strategically placed wells and vents in the soil to extract VOCs through the use of vacuums and blowers. The recovered VOCs are then treated in a vapor-phase system equipped with a carbon filtration or thermal oxidation component. Anaerobic Bioremediation is a form of composting where soils are placed in an enclosed system such as treatment cells, rotating drums or digesters and degradation or transformation of organic or inorganic matter occurs in the absence of oxygen. Soil washing involves the use of water and mechanical equipment such as vibratory screens to scrub the contaminated soils. Chemical oxidation involves the application of

chemical oxidants such as permanganate, hydrogen peroxide, iron and ozone to contaminated soils. Chemical oxidation may be used to enhance the effectiveness of soil washing or SVE, or as a stand alone system.

California Environmental Quality Act

As required by state law, we studied the possible effect of the cleanup to determine if the cleanup process itself will have a harmful effect on public health and the environment. For example, we looked at whether the operation of the soil washing and soil-vapor extraction and bioremediation would disturb wildlife or habitat, and cause dust pollution. For this project, an Initial Study determined that the cleanup would not have adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, a "Negative Declaration" prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is proposed. This determination and the supporting Initial Study are included in project documents available for public review (during the same public comment period as the Draft RAP) at the Information repositories listed below

More information at the library and at our agency's office

We have information available on the proposed cleanup at the following locations:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale,
CA 91201. Contact: Jose Diaz, (818) 551-2171

Whittaker-Bermite Facility
22116 West Soledad Canyon Road,
Santa Clarita.
Contact: (661) 259-2242

City of Santa Clarita Planning Department
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita.
Contact: Lisa Hardy, (661) 259-2489

City of Santa Clarita Public Library – Valencia
Branch, 23743 W. Magic Mountain Parkway,
Santa Clarita. Contact: (661) 259-8942

City of Santa Clarita Public Library – Canyon
Country Branch, 18601 Soledad Canyon Road,
Santa Clarita. Contact: (661) 251-2720

Where to send comments

Comments must be postmarked, faxed, or emailed by June 11, 2004, and sent to:

Mr. Jose Diaz
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue,
Glendale, CA 91201
Email Jdiaz@dtsc.ca.gov
Fax: (818) 551-2832

Who to call at our agency

If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please call or email either of these two people at the Department of Toxic Substances Control:

Jose Diaz, Project Manager
(818) 551-2171
Email: Jdiaz@dtsc.ca.gov

Tim Chauvel, Public Participation Specialist,
(714) 484-5487
Email: tchauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia
Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
Email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

Whittaker-Bermite facility

Santa Clarita, California

Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Proposed Negative Declaration

You may use this sheet to:

- **send us your comments**
- be added to 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. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **June 11, 2004**. Please send this form to Jose Diaz, Project Manager, DTSC, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California, 91201. You may also e-mail this same information to: jdiaz@dtsc.ca.gov, or fax to (818) 551-2832.

___ 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)

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.