Department of Toxic Substances Control - Fact Sheet

November 2014

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Beckman Coulter, Inc. - Fullerton
Draft Corrective Measures Study Available for Public Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review a proposed plan to clean up contaminated soil at the Beckman Coulter, Inc. (BCI) Fullerton (Site). The Site is located at 4300 North Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, California. This cleanup plan, called a draft Corrective Measures Study (CMS), describes the environmental & groundwater investigation results, and the recommended options to clean up contaminated soil & groundwater at the Beckman Fullerton Facility.

Why Cleanup is Necessary

The BCI facility operated under a Resource Conversation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit. This permit has a requirement for cleanup known as corrective action. In 2008, BCI decided to stop operations in Fullerton and, the facility closed in 2010. In 2008 Site investigations began. Those investigations found industrial solvents, Perchloroethylene (PCE) and Tetrachloroethylene (TCE in soil, soil vapor and groundwater. Also, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a chemical used in electrical transformers made between 1929 and 1977, were found in soil. The draft CMS identifies four cleanup options and recommends the one considered to be the most effective. Once the CMS is approved, DTSC will oversee the cleanup and ensure it is done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.

There is **no** immediate threat to the public and the community. This is because the site is fenced off, dust is monitored and there is no exposure to any of the Chemicals of Concern (COCs). However, cleanup is necessary to prevent any future potential health effects when the property is redeveloped.

Site Description and History

The property was initially purchased by BCI in 1951. Construction of the first structure was completed in 1953. Operations at the facility began in 1954 and were continuous through various phases of growth through 2010. Operations involved the production of various scientific instruments and products related to the use or operation of the instruments. The former manufacturing complex comprised of BCI's corporate headquarters, research & development, administration, warehousing, shipping and receiving, and a variety of instrument manufacturing operations.

Public Comment Period

November 21, 2014 – January 9, 2015

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the draft CMS and the Statement of Basis. The draft CMS and other project related documents are available for review at the locations listed in this document.

DTSC will make a final decision on the cleanup plan after public comments have been reviewed. Please submit written comments postmarked by January 9, 2015; or by email no later than 5:00 pm on the deadline to:

Mr. William Jeffers
DTSC Project Manager
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
William.Jeffers@dtsc.ca.gov

Environmental Investigations

The Site was characterized in multiple phases of soil, soil vapor, and groundwater investigations, beginning in 2008 that are ongoing.

Chemicals of Concern (COCs) were identified based on the use of chemicals at the Site, their potential breakdown products, and the findings of the initial investigation activities.

Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are the most significant COCs at the Site, in particular PCE and TCE. Both PCE and TCE are industrial solvents known to have been used in operations at the Site. In addition to VOCs, PCBs were identified in the former manufacturing area.

Proposed Cleanup Plan (Draft CMS)

To clean up the contaminated soil and soil vapor the Draft CMS evaluated the following four options:

Option 1 – No Action. Clean up and/or monitoring would not be done, and the contaminated soil would be left in place. This option is given as a baseline to evaluate all the options.

Option 2 – Excavation and On-Site Treatment/ Off-Site Disposal. Soil contaminated with VOCs would be excavated and treated at a thermal treatment system, managed and operated at the site. This process removes contaminated soil from the source areas and treats it on-site using evaporative desorption, a thermal treatment process. The treated soil would then be placed back into the areas it came from.

To learn about how this treatment works read the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA's) Citizen's Guide to Thermal Desorption: http://www.epa.gov/tio/download/citizens/a_citizens_guide_to_thermal_desorption.pdf

Option 3 –On-Site Containment (Capping) and Institutional Control. Contaminated soil would be excavated, placed below the surface (with a liner) in an alternate area at the site, and capped with concrete or asphalt. A land use covenant to restrict use and activities for this area would be formally recorded, and the containment cell would be monitored and maintained.

Option 4 – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal. Contaminated soil would be excavated, stockpiled temporarily, and taken to an off-site disposal facility.

Proposed alternative for Soil Remediation

The preferred alternative for PCB-contaminated soil is Option 4. The preferred alternative for VOC-contaminated soil is Option 2. These options were chosen because of their effectiveness and ease of implementation.

Groundwater

The preferred groundwater remedy is an integrated approach that treats contamination at the source using an in-situ chemical reduction (ISCR) or In-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) treatment technology in combination with down gradient Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA). MNA relies on the natural physical, chemical and biological processes to breakdown the contamination in groundwater.

To learn about MNA, read the EPA's Citizen's Guide: http://cluin.org/download/Citizens/a_citizens_guide_to_monitored_natural_attenuation.pdf

If Options recommended in the Draft CMS are chosen, work is expected to be completed in 2015.

Safety Measures during Cleanup

During cleanup activities, the following measures to ensure the safety of public and the community would be taken:

- For general safety, work areas will be fenced and access will be controlled.
- Water will be sprayed on soil to keep down dust.
- Soil stockpiles will be covered with plastic sheeting or stabilized using a soil additive to control dust and stop runoff during storms.
- Air quality will be monitored to ensure dust levels remain protective to the community.
- All trucks with soil leaving the Site will be covered and the tires brushed and cleaned to keep excess soil from being tracked into the street.

Safety measures follow relevant city, state and agency guidelines.

Statement of Basis

The Statement of Basis is a document prepared by DTSC that summarizes the information collected to identify the nature and extent of contamination, the proposed cleanup alternatives, and the administrative record. It is designed to facilitate public participation in the remedy selection process.

Contingency Measures

The draft CMS includes a contingency plan in case there is residual soil vapor contamination above acceptable levels after cleanup. The groundwater cleanup remedy includes a contingency plan to remove contamination by extraction and treatment in addition to MNA, if needed.

Environmental Evaluation under CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to evaluate and disclose significant environmental effects of a proposed project.

With respect to CEQA, City of Fullerton (City) is the Lead Agency, and DTSC is the Responsible Agency for the project. The City of Fullerton prepared The Fullerton Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse Number (SCH) No. 2011051019 and the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Addendum, SCH No. 2013081209 for the project.

As a Responsible Agency, DTSC considered the EIR and IS/MND and Addendum. No significant impacts are expected from the project. DTSC prepared a draft Statement of Findings and will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse if the project is approved. The CEQA documentation for this site is available at the repositories listed in this document.

Next Steps

- The public may comment on the draft CMS during the Public Comment Period for 45 days, November 21st through January 9, 2015.
- DTSC will review all comments received and make any necessary revisions to finalize the CMS.
- DTSC will approve a final CMS.
- DTSC will provide a "Response to Comments" document to anyone who submitted comments during the Public Comment Period and provided contact information.
- Beckman Coulter will implement the final CMS.
- DTSC will terminate Corrective Action after completion of the cleanup.

Site Information Availability

All Site related documents are available online at: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=80001536

and at the following locations:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Contact: Ms. Vivien Tutaan at (818) 717-6521 to schedule an appointment
Hours: Mon. – Fri.: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fullerton Public Library
353 W. Commonwealth Ave.,
Fullerton, CA 92832
(714) 738-6333
Mon. – Thurs.: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Fri. – Sat.: 10:00 am – 5:00pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

DTSC CONTACTS

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