

COMMUNITY Notice

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

Draft Remedial Action Plan and Draft RCRA Closure Plan – California Steel Industries, Inc.

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Marina Perez al número (818) 717 6569.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Closure Plan and proposed Notice of Exemption for the California Steel Industries, Inc. (CSI) Site in Fontana, California (Site). The Site is located at 14000 San Bernardino Avenue, Fontana, California, and consists of approximately 422 acres of land situated in the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): As required by California Law, DTSC has performed a review of the proposed Draft RAP and RCRA Closure Plan in accordance with the CEQA. Based on that review, DTSC has determined that the project will not have any significant effect on public health or the environment. DTSC proposes to issue a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project.

What is Being Proposed? The Draft RAP and Draft RCRA Closure Plan recommend containing in place soils that are contaminated by arsenic, lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and other constituents, and placing a land use restriction on the parcels to restrict land uses to commercial and industrial uses only. In addition, CSI will maintain the existing pavement over an approximate 1,200 square-foot area located within the Pickling Line Facilities, and pave a further 43,000 square-foot area located within the Northern Aboveground Tanks - and maintain it in accordance with the deed restriction. The RAP also includes a soils management and transportation plan that provides procedures for CSI to manage future soil moving activities if needed.

This fact sheet describes the previous investigations and remediation activities proposed for the CSI Site located at 14000 San Bernardino Avenue in the County of San Bernardino (Site) as illustrated in Figure 1, page 4. This fact sheet also provides a brief history, summarizes the Site Investigation (SI) and Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), presents the recommended remediation cleanup activities for the Site; and announces the public meeting and comment period for the draft RAP and draft RCRA Closure Plan.

Public Comment Period



30-day public comment period from November 14 through December 16, 2014

Your participation is encouraged.

Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by December 16, 2014 and sent to:

Tayseer Mahmoud,
DTSC Project Manager
5796 Corporate Ave
Cypress, California 90630
Tayseer.Mahmoud@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5419

DTSC will hold a public meeting on December 10, 2014 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the CSI Cafeteria located at 1 California Steel Way, Fontana, CA 92335.



Site History and Background

The current CSI facility was originally developed in 1941 by Kaiser Steel Corporation (KSC). For 41 years, KSC operated an integrated steel mill consisting of a rolling mill and a primary production steel plant on approximately 2,000 acres of land. KSC discontinued all steel manufacturing and processing operations at the facility in 1983.

Under the oversight of the DTSC, and in accordance with the DTSC's Expedited Remedial Action Program (ERAP), SoundEarth Strategies California, Inc. (SoundEarth) prepared a draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan for the Site on behalf of CSI. The draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan explains the nature and extent of contamination, provides a risk evaluation, and discusses the preferred remedial actions for the Site. The CEQA documents prepared to support the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan evaluate the potential environmental impacts. These documents are currently available for public review at the locations listed on page 5.

In 1984, CSI was founded and acquired approximately a 378-acre portion of the original KSC site. In that same year, CSI began its current operations of processing and finishing low-carbon and semi-finished steel. CSI subsequently purchased an additional 73 acres of the original KSC site in 1989.

Site Investigations and 31 Areas of Concern

The Site contains 31 Areas of Concern (AOCs) that were identified through a series of site investigations. Three of the 31 AOCs (23, 24, and 30) were previously reviewed between June and September, 1996 to characterize the extent of contamination and develop methods of remediation. As approved by DTSC, these three AOCs were closed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) program via a Final Remedial Action Plan dated July 1997 which proposed No Further Action with a Land Use Restriction. Accordingly, this draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan focuses on the 28 open AOCs on the Site.

RCRA Closure Requirements

CSI acquired the Site as a portion of a former integrated steel mill (FISM) operated by KSC. As the FISM was originally a RCRA site, all units on the CSI facility that were operated after November 19, 1980, are regulated under RCRA as Hazardous Waste Management Units (HWMU), which are governed by Chapter 15 of California Code of Regulations, Title 22. The HWMU units must comply with RCRA requirements. Therefore, the remedial actions set forth in the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan address RCRA requirements for the open AOCs and HWMUs.

Site Investigation and Human Health Risk Assessment of the Site

DTSC approved the SI Report and HHRA in a letter dated April 5, 2004. The SI report presented the results of Phase I and Phase II investigations, the HHRA and AOC investigations. Based on the results, the risk at the Site was determined to be driven by the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) associated with the heavy fuel oils and sludges that were historically used and/or generated at the Site. Small surficial areas of elevated PAH concentrations were identified at certain AOCs. The draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan used the SI and HHRA findings to develop the proposed remedial actions for the Site.

Contaminant Fate and Transport Evaluation

As part of the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan, a contaminant fate and transport evaluation was conducted in order to determine whether the contaminants detected in the open AOCs have the potential to degrade and leach (dissolve), and pose a threat to, the underlying groundwater. The evaluation determined that most chemicals did not pose a threat. Eleven chemicals, however, were retained for further evaluation using the Regional Water Quality Control Board's screening levels. The results of the analysis indicated that none of the chemicals pose a threat to the beneficial uses of groundwater at the Site.



Remedial Action Plan/Risk Evaluation

Results of the original HHRA determined that estimated carcinogenic risks at the Site were within the risk management range at all 28 AOCs. In 2013, the carcinogenic risk for the commercial/industrial worker scenario was re-evaluated for seven AOCs to allow for the consideration of risk management measures and to account for changes in DTSC’s risk assessment methodology between 2002 and 2013. Based on the 2013 re-evaluation, the carcinogenic range at AOC09 and AOC22 was slightly above the Cal-EPA risk management range.

Based on the original risk assessment and the 2013 re-evaluation, AOC01 through AOC08, AOC10 through AOC21, AOC25 through AOC29, and AOC31 do not require further remediation other than a recording a land use restriction on the Site that maintains its use as industrial. Additionally, this land use restriction meets the RCRA Clean Closure to Industrial Standards criteria for AOCs 11 and 31. AOCs 09 and 22 were selected for additional risk mitigation measures (beyond the deed restriction) in the form of paving to minimize exposure to soils from surface activities. The draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan proposes the installation of a surface cap for AOC09 Northern Aboveground Storage Tanks and maintaining the existing surface cap at AOC22 Pickling Line Facilities to further reduce health risks associates with these areas.

Evaluation of Remedial Actions

Potential remedial actions for each of the AOCs were screened against the applicable evaluation criteria contained in the California Health and Safety Code (Section 25398.6). As described in the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan, remedies included no action, deed restriction, surface capping, excavation and off-site disposal, and enhanced bioremediation.

Proposed Remedial Actions and Next Steps

Based on detailed screening, the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan concludes that a deed restriction is an adequate remedy for all of the AOCs, except for AOC09 and AOC22. Those AOCs would require a paved surface cap to minimize contact with the affected soils. In addition, the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan includes a soils management and transportation plan to manage potential future encounters with affected soils during routine construction and maintenance activities on the Site.

A protectiveness review will be conducted every five years to document Site status and report land use to ensure the remedy continues to adequately protect human health and the environment.

The Site and the paved areas will be visually inspected annually to monitor, maintain, and enforce the land use controls and reports will be submitted to DTSC.

The newly installed cover in the AOC09 Northern Aboveground Tanks and the existing pavement at AOC22 Pickling Line Facilities will be maintained by CSI.

Together, the maintained surface cap (for two AOCs), along with the deed restriction (for the remaining 26 AOCs), and the soil management plan for the all the AOCs satisfies the remedial actions needed for the Site to meet DTSC standards. The deed restriction cannot be removed or modified without approval and oversight of the DTSC and removal or treatment of affected soils to appropriate cleanup standards.

Where to Find Project Documents

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan, and other site-related documents which are available at the information repositories listed below:

Department of Toxic Substances Control

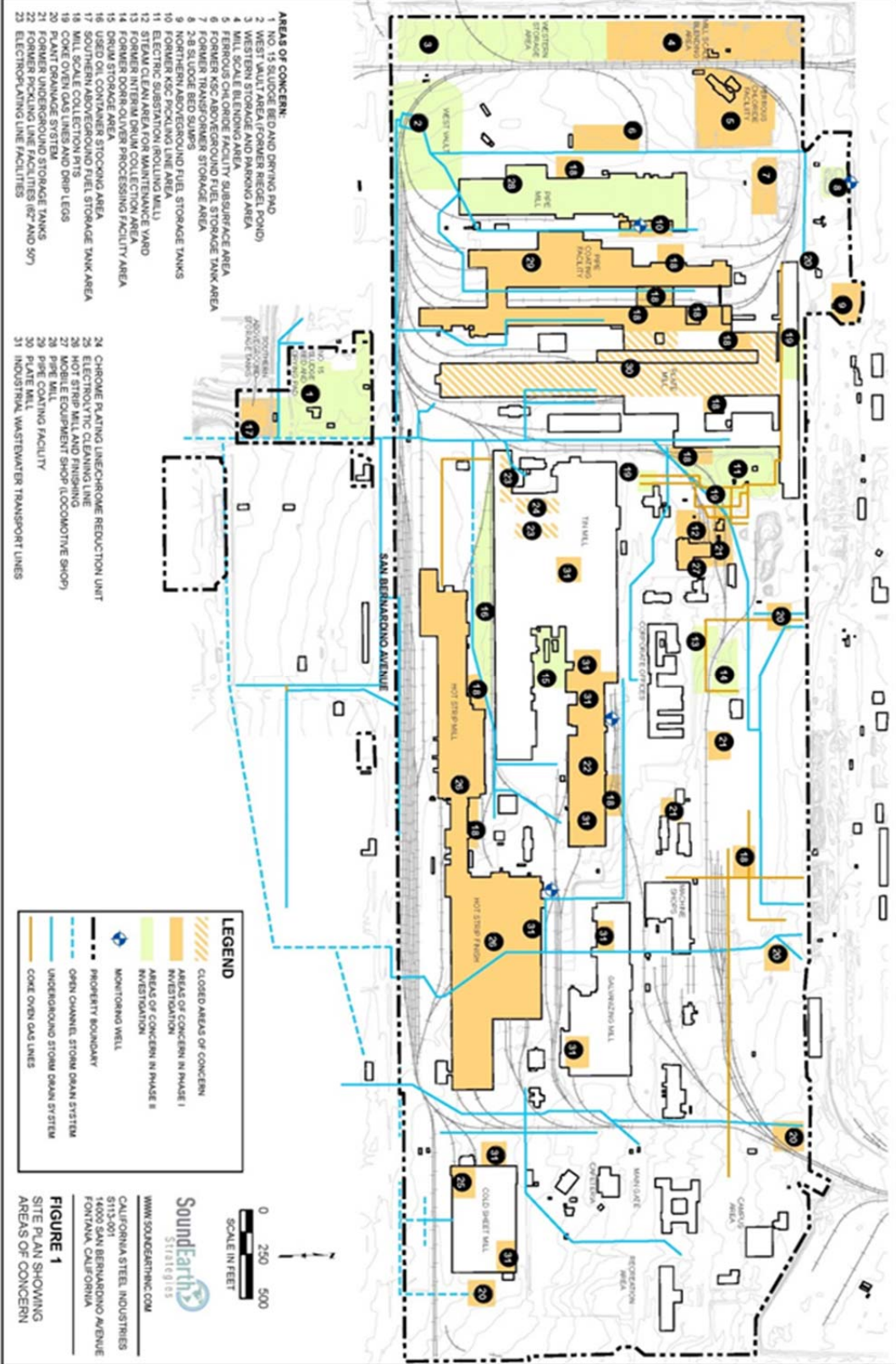
Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Ave
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5300 to schedule an appointment

Fontana Lewis Library & Technology Center
8437 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335-3892
Phone: (909) 574-4500
Mon-Thurs: 10 am – 9 pm
Fri and Sat: 10 am – 6 pm
Sun: 12 pm – 5 pm

Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets and other site-related information are also available online at DTSC’s website at:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=36330046





NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS: TTY users may use the California Relay Service at 1-877-735-2929 or (711). Please see contact name at the end of this report.



Who to Contact for More Information

For more information about the draft RAP/RCRA Closure Plan or to be added to the site mailing list please contact the following DTSC representatives:

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Tim Chauvel, DTSC Public Participation Specialist
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Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5487
E-mail: Tim.Chauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

For media questions, please contact:

Russ Edmondson
DTSC Public Information Officer
(916) 327-3372
Redmondson@dtsc.ca.gov

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodation, please call Tim Chauvel at least one week in advance of the meeting.



