



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 10, 2004

Phil Franey
Kern County Treasurer and Tax Collector
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301-4639

**KERN COUNTY TAX SALE OF THE FORMER GIBSON ENVIRONMENTAL SITE,
2401 GIBSON STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, EPA ID NO. CAD 980 883 177**

Dear Mr. Franey:

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") understands that Kern County is going to offer for sale the former permitted hazardous waste disposal facility located at 2401 Gibson Road in Bakersfield, California ("the Gibson Site"). The sale will occur as part of a regularly scheduled County tax sale in February, 2005. This letter confirms that the Gibson Site is the subject of an Imminent & Substantial Endangerment Order ("Order") issued by DTSC on November 8, 1999. The Order requires identified responsible parties to conduct a remedial investigation and environmental cleanup of the Site. While progress has been made in the investigation and cleanup of the contamination at the Site, the cleanup is not complete and a final remedial action plan has not been determined. As a result, the Site is not suitable for any development at this time and remains subject to the Order.

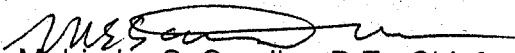
ANY PURCHASER OF THE GIBSON SITE AT A TAX SALE WILL BE CONSIDERED A POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTY WITH REGARD TO THE ONGOING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP LIABILITIES AT THE SITE UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. Please post this notice in the information distributed regarding the Gibson Site so that all potential purchasers are aware of the significant financial risks and liability associated with purchasing the Gibson Site at the scheduled tax sale.

DTSC does not have the resources to respond to numerous inquiries from potential purchasers regarding the status of environmental issues at the Gibson Site.

Phil Franey
December 10, 2004
Page 2

Fact sheets regarding the Site and the Order are posted at DTSC's website at www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Gibson/index.html. All potential purchasers should consult that website for information.

Sincerely,



Mohinder S. Sandhu, P.E., Chief
Standardized Permitting and Corrective Action Branch

Fact Sheet
August 2003

Gibson Environmental Corporation Marriott Drive Site



BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
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



INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing cleanup activities at the Gibson Environmental Site (Site). The Site is located at the end of Marriott Drive, off Rosedale Highway, in Bakersfield, California (Figure 1). The purpose of this fact sheet is to update the community and interested parties on the status of the Site clean up. This fact sheet contains information concerning site history, site background, previous site activities, future site activities, public participation activities, information repositories, DTSC contacts and mailing list information.

BACKGROUND

The property had been operated as an oil refinery since the 1940s. In 1978 Gibson Oil and Refining bought the subject property and constructed a crude oil refining operation, which it operated on the site until 1986. From June 1987 to October 1995 the site was operated as Gibson Environmental and was primarily a used oil storage and soil treatment facility. It received used oil, and certain other oily wastes. It also received contaminated soils, which were treated using a fixation process on-site. These activities were conducted under a permit issued by DTSC on June 28, 1988.

In October 1994, DTSC filed a civil lawsuit against the owners and operators of Gibson Environmental alleging numerous violations of hazardous waste laws. On June 25, 1996, DTSC issued a decision denying the facility a hazardous waste permit. DTSC's decision became final on February 4, 1998.

DTSC conducted sampling at the Site from October 11, 1999, through October 15, 1999. Seventeen steel tanks, two poly-tanks and three sumps were sampled. DTSC estimated that there was approximately 670,000 gallons of contaminated liquids and sludge present. The DTSC investigation uncovered evidence that six tanks had slow leaks, five had leaking valves, and one tank showed evidence of a seep from the sidewall.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Based on the sampling results, DTSC issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order and Remedial Action Order (Order) to 40 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) who were considered by DTSC to be the main contributors to the waste at the Site. The Order addressed both the liquid and soil treatment areas, and placed financial liability on the PRP Group for all site assessment and cleanup.

SITE REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES

A group of the PRPs identified in the Order (PRP Group), in a joint effort with DTSC staff, subsequently developed a Liquid Removal Action Plan and a Health and Safety Plan and submitted them to DTSC for approval on January 14, 2000. The submittals outlined liquid waste removal and disposal plans including the identification of facilities that could receive cleaned up waste from the Site. Workplans to remove the residual sludge remaining after liquid removal and to demolish the tank structures were approved by DTSC in August of 2000.

The PRP Group, under DTSC oversight, began cleanup work on January 17, 2000. Initial work focused on Site security and liquid removal from the above ground storage tanks. The removal of sludge was initiated in September 2000, and tank demolition began in October of 2000.

When the removal action was completed in June of 2001, approximately 740,000 gallons of liquids, including contaminated rainwater, and 1800 tons of sludge had been removed from the Site and disposed of in several permitted hazardous waste facilities located throughout the country. All tanks have been removed.

There are approximately 80,000 cubic yards of impacted soil stockpiled on-site in five large soil piles. This impacted soil is related to Gibson Environmental's soil treatment activities. The PRPs developed a work plan, approved by DTSC in April 2001, to investigate the piles. This work has been completed and the analytical results indicate that three of the soil stockpiles contain California hazardous waste.

Storm water drainage control of the waste soil pile area was completed in October 2000, following the procedures outlined in the Soils Piles Interim Drainage Control Work Plan approved by DTSC. The site drainage was modified to prevent storm water from leaving the site.

In August 2002, a tall heating tower was taken down and removed from the site. In March 2003, additional surface equipment was taken down and removed. The only remaining surface equipment is a tank that will be used to hold water for future cleanup activities.

In January 2003, chemical dust suppressant was applied to stabilize the soil piles. This surface treatment produces a flexible crust that is resistant to wind and water erosion. The effectiveness of this treatment is one to two years, requiring periodic reapplication.

The PRP Group has also begun investigating the surface and subsurface soils and the groundwater at the Site. The work plan for this activity was approved by DTSC in October 2002. Field work implementing this work plan began in October of 2002. Initial data from this work has been evaluated and a workplan for additional follow-up investigations was approved on June 16, 2003. This additional field work was completed in July of 2003.

FUTURE SITE ACTIVITIES

The strategy DTSC employs to implement site remediation is to order work plans for the Site, consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency guidance documents. These work plans undergo a review and approval process by DTSC scientists and engineers, and the actual work is performed by private contractors hired by and paid for by the PRP Group, under DTSC oversight.

Currently, Remedial Investigation work plans are being implemented to assess site conditions. Future work plans include Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study work plans to evaluate potential human and ecological health risks and to evaluate alternatives

necessary to select cleanup remedies, if they are necessary. DTSC expects the Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study to be completed within a year. The public process to select the cleanup remedy and the cleanup itself should be completed within an additional two years.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

In June 2000, a public participation plan was developed outlining the methods and procedures by which the community would be informed and involved in the decision making process for this site. The community includes residents, elected officials and interested parties. Community interest is continually monitored and the public participation plan may be revised.

To date, DTSC has hosted two media days at the Site to update the public on the cleanup progress. In addition, DTSC has published three prior fact sheets, which are on file in the information repositories and available for public review. Additional fact sheets will be developed as activity at the Site progresses. When required or needed, public meetings will be held and Site activities will be submitted for public review and comment. The selection of the cleanup remedy is a public process and a public notice will be issued to solicit comment on the Remedial Action Plan when it is prepared.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Copies of site related documents including work plans, the public participation plan and fact sheets are available for public review at the following locations.

Kern County Library
701 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-0701

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday- Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Contact: Jennifer Thomas
(916) 255-3758

DTSC Contacts

If you would like more information or have any questions regarding the Site, please contact:

Gregory Honzay, Project Manager
Hazardous Waste Management Program
DTSC, Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-6678
GHonzay@dtsc.ca.gov

Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist
DTSC, Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3649
rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Contact

Lisa Gray, Public Information Officer
DTSC Headquarters
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812
(916) 324-0936
lgray@stsc.ca.gov

Mailing List Information

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and wish to be on the Gibson Environmental mailing list, please complete the coupon on the following page and return it to Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist, at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Please add me to the Gibson Marriott Drive Site mailing list. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may by subject to release.

Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Representing:

Phone number:

E-mail:

