

Fact Sheet, April 2008



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

## **GIBSON ENVIRONMENTAL SITE PROPOSED CLEAN UP ACTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW (April 30 to May 30, 2008)**

**(para informacion en Espanol, llame a Jesus Cruz, al 1 (866) 495-5651)  
(Correo Electronico: [JCruz@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:JCruz@dtsc.ca.gov))**

### **Introduction**

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is requesting public review of the Feasibility Study and Draft Remedial Action Plan (FS-RAP) and the proposed final remedy for the former Gibson Environmental, Inc. Site (Site). DTSC is also proposing to make a determination that Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action is Complete with Controls for the Site. The Site is located at 2401 Gibson Street, south of Rosedale Highway, approximately a half mile west of Highway 99, in Bakersfield, California. See Figure 1 on page 3.

The purpose of the FS-RAP is to evaluate remedial alternatives and identify the optimal remedial action for the Site. The FS-RAP was prepared by the Gibson Environmental Site's Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP). The PRP Group is a group of companies and municipalities who were generators of materials sent to the Site. The PRP Group was formed to clean up the Site after the bankruptcy of the owners and operators of Gibson Environmental. DTSC issued an Imminent and/or Substantial Endangerment Determination Order and Remedial Action Order (Docket No. I&SE 99/00-002) on November 8, 1999. The Remedial Action Order outlined the work required by DTSC for characterization and clean up of the Site.

### **The Public Comment Period will take place from April 30 to May 30, 2008.**

DTSC is requesting public review of the FS-RAP and is notifying the public about the proposed Corrective Action Complete with Controls determination. A Public Hearing has not been scheduled at this time, but one will be considered if one is requested. If you request a Public Hearing, please identify the issues to be addressed at the Public Hearing. Please send your comments or requests no later than the last day of the Public Comment Period to:

Mr. Paul Ruffin  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200  
E-Mail [pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov)

**(for Public Participation questions, call Jesus Cruz, 1 (866) 495-5651)**



## **Site Background**

The Site consists of approximately 6.2 acres located in an unincorporated area of Kern County designated for industrial use. The Site is located near vacant lots and light to medium industrial and commercial activities. The Site was used for oil-related production activities as early as the 1940s. Gibson Oil purchased the northern part of the Site in 1978 and used it for oil refining and recycling operations until at least 1984. In 1987, Gibson Oil became Gibson Environmental and received interim status from DTSC to operate a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility for liquid waste. DTSC issued a hazardous waste facility permit to Gibson Environmental in June 1988. In 1989, Gibson Environmental purchased the southern portion of the Site. Gibson Environmental received Interim Status in 1990 to accept and treat contaminated soil. Gibson Environmental ceased operations and abandoned the Site in 1995, leaving behind approximately 670,000 gallons of liquid and sludge in tanks and approximately 80,000 cubic yards of soil piles. In 2000 and 2001, the PRP Group removed the liquid and sludge waste from the Site under DTSC's oversight and pursuant to a work plan approved by DTSC.

## **Site Characterization**

Investigations to characterize the soil piles, subsurface soil, and groundwater were conducted between 2001 and 2006 and are summarized in the Final Site Wide Remedial Investigation Report, dated July 2006. Groundwater monitoring at the Site shows there has not been a significant impact to groundwater from Site operations. The soil pile investigation indicated that lead concentrations exceeded California hazardous waste criteria (Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration) in the former West, North, and East Piles.

## **Interim Removal Measures Completed**

In 2007, the PRP Group removed the soil piles (shown on Figure 2 on page 4) from the Site. This work was also done under DTSC's oversight and pursuant to a work plan approved by DTSC. The soil was transported to licensed

waste disposal facilities. All concrete pads, platforms, containment walls, sumps and piping located in the former tank farm area were demolished. Debris, reinforcement bars, piping, and other waste was recycled or disposed of, as appropriate. Areas where sumps were removed were backfilled to grade using clean fill.

## **HRA and FS-RAP**

A final human health and ecological risk assessment (HRA) of the Site was completed in accordance with federal and state EPA guidelines in 2007. Consistent with the expected commercial/industrial future use of the Site, the HRA evaluated risk to: future trespassers; future outdoor industrial workers; future commercial workers; future construction/utility workers; and future maintenance workers.

The results of the HRA indicate that residual chemicals in the soil at the Site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment if future uses of the Site are limited to industrial and commercial enterprises. Based on the HRA results and consideration of three proposed remedial alternatives: (1) no further action; (2) land use restrictions; and (3) land use restrictions with excavation, the FS-RAP, concludes that the optimal remedial action alternative for the Site is Number (2), to leave the subsurface soil in place and restrict future use to commercial or industrial uses through recorded land use covenants.

## **RCRA Corrective Action**

Because the Site had interim status and a RCRA permit, it remains subject to RCRA Corrective Action even though the Site is no longer owned by Gibson Environmental. RCRA Corrective Action requires clean-up of releases of hazardous chemicals, even if the release was not from an authorized hazardous waste management unit. Based on the site characterization and the HRA, the clean-up has been completed for future industrial and commercial uses (the optimal remedial alternative). Because a land use covenant is being required, DTSC is proposing to make a determination that the Corrective Action is Complete with the implementation of Controls.

The Controls are contained in the land use covenant, which will restrict the future uses of the Site to industrial and commercial uses. These use restrictions will be recorded in the property records and will be binding on each successive property owner.

### **Oil Well Removal**

Two oil wells remain on the south side of the Site. The owner of the mineral rights at the Site is responsible for closing and abandoning oil production wells under the oversight of the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources. Closure and abandonment of on-site wells is pending.

### **California Environmental Quality Act**

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the FS-RAP under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, California Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.). In the Notice of Exemption DTSC has determined that the final remedial alternative of land use restrictions will not have a significant impact on the environment.

### **Public Involvement and Project Decision**

DTSC will make the final decision on the selected remedy in the FS-RAP after public comments have been received and considered. Everyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. A copy of the Response to Comments will be placed in the information repositories listed below and will also be placed on DTSC's website.

### **The FS-RAP can be viewed at these locations:**

Beale Memorial Library  
701 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 868-0701

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1515 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, California 93611

#### File Room:

Mon-Fri: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
By appointment (559) 297-3905

### **The full administrative record for the Site is available at:**

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

#### File Room:

Mon-Fri: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
By appointment (916) 255-3758

### **If you would like more information or have questions about the FS-RAP please contact:**

Mr. Paul Ruffin at (916) 255-6677 or e-mail [pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **For media questions, please contact:**

Ms. Jeanne Garcia at (818) 551-2176 or e-mail [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (711 or 1-800-735-2929) and ask to speak to Mr. Jesus Cruz at (866) 495-5651.



Figure 1 - Location Map

