



Department of Toxic Substances Control
ASCON LANDFILL (Site)

**Frequently Asked
Questions (FAQs)
Regarding
PIT F Remediation**

April 2021

- 1. The 2015 approved Remedial Action Plan (RAP) states the following: Investigations show that material from Pit F appears to have migrated in the subsurface to an aerial extent of approximately 1.1 acres, all within the Site fence line (Page 15). Since almost 6 years have passed since the last investigation, is there any recent data showing the current extent of contamination, given the proposed restart of Pit F excavation?**

Pit F and the areas surrounding Pit F have been thoroughly characterized in the following investigations and reports:

- [Pit F Offsite Investigation](#) (2005): showed impacts diminished near the site perimeter
- [Revised Feasibility Study](#) (2007): documented the 2004 soils and waste remedial investigation and mapped approximate limits of Pit F impacts
- [Supplementary Groundwater Investigation in the Pit F Area](#) (2006): showed Pit F waste is not in groundwater except in close vicinity to Pit F
- [South Coast Oil Corporation Area \(SCOC\), Ascon Properties Area, and Well 80 Area Investigation Report - Addendum for the Site Remedial Investigation](#) (2008): provides additional soils assessment near Pit F that corroborates earlier findings
- [Pit F Sampling Technical Memorandum](#) (2017): characterized the waste in Pit F to determine the proper means of waste disposal and confirmed depth of Pit F waste

The Pit F waste has been in place for more than 60 years. Since June 1966, multiple investigations have been conducted at the site with no significant changes to the data collected. Therefore, additional contamination migration from Pit F is not expected.

The rationale of Pit F removal action outlined in the DTSC-approved Remedial Action Plan, Environmental Impact Report, Remedial Design Report, and Remedy Implementation Plan was to address the Pit F waste within the geometric area 45 feet wide by 45 feet long by 30 feet deep. Contaminated materials outside of Pit F will be covered by an engineered cap. All investigations conducted to date have confirmed that Pit F contamination is contained to the immediate vicinity of Pit F.

- [Revised Final Remedial Design Report](#) (2017): includes reference/discussion on the planned cap
- [Remedy Implementation Plan](#) (2019): includes reference/discussion on the planned cap

- 2. Next to Pit F is Pit E which is also documented as having Styrene waste. Investigations have shown that the nearby, now tented, Pit F appeared back in 2015 to have migrated into the subsurface to a surface extent of approximately 1.1 acres. Is there documentation you can share with us about the dates of all investigations regarding the delineation and migration at Pit F? Has any delineation between the two pits and their migration of contaminants been done lately or at all and when? Do they intersect?**

Distinct and separate footprints of Pit F and E have been verified through historical photos and documents. Remedial investigations found no styrene waste products in the Pit E footprint. Contaminants in Pit E area are consistent with petroleum hydrocarbons. Soils in the Pit E area will be covered by an engineered cap (see response 20 for explanation).

The Revised Feasibility Study (RFS,) dated September 21, 2007, shows that waste migrated into the subsurface to a surface extent of approximately 1.1 acres.

The Pit F waste has been in place for more than 60 years. Over those years, multiple investigations have been conducted at the site with no significant changes to the data collected. Therefore, additional contamination migration from Pit F is not expected and no further changes are expected, such as physical nature and composition of materials.

3. Why is styrene Pit E being left onsite if Pit F styrene is considered an imminent danger and concern to the community?

Investigations show that Pit E waste does not pose an imminent danger to the community. Pit E materials are soil while Pit F waste is highly viscous and taffy-like near the surface and viscous and honey-like at greater depths. The analytical data shows there is no styrene in Pit E. All investigations have confirmed that Pit F waste is contained to the immediate vicinity of Pit F and therefore does not pose a health risk to the community. Remedial investigations found that there were no styrene waste products in the Pit E footprint. (Waste) materials in this area are consistent with petroleum hydrocarbons and will be covered by an engineered cap. This approach outlined in the Revised Final Remedial Design Report, pages 21 to 23, and in Remedy Implementation Plan pages 19 and 20.

4. How mobile is the styrene waste at Pit F? How do we know that what needs to be excavated is still within the confines of the existing tent?

Pit F waste is not mobile. Assessments have determined much of the Pit F waste to be highly viscous and taffy-like near the surface and viscous and honey-like at greater depths, making it difficult for the waste to flow through soils. For example, some toxic materials within Pit F (e.g., Dibenz(a,h)anthracene) are neither volatile or soluble in water.

The planned excavation, which encompasses Pit F itself, the berm around it, and the liners placed over the Pit "F" material, is entirely within the confines of the tent. Contaminated materials outside of Pit F will be covered by an engineered cap.

5. What are the contingencies for explosions, fires and other emergencies to be handled during Pit F remediation? How will neighboring residents and schools be protected and notified during these potential emergencies?

The health and safety of the City of Huntington Beach community is our highest priority as we implement the cleanup at the Ascon Landfill Site. Safety measures like the tent and air treatment systems are in place to protect immediate on-site workers, the public, and limit impacts such as odors during work.

Pit F waste has been thoroughly investigated and the risk of fire or explosion during excavation work is very low. Ascon closely coordinates with the City of Huntington Beach Fire Department and local first responder teams, and all are aware that Pit F excavation work tentative scheduled to begin first week of June. In case of emergency, community members will be notified by the AsconAlert community opt-in emergency notification system. Information on the notification system, AsconAlert, will be distributed

utilizing the DTSC mailing list, posted to DTSC EnviroStor and to Ascon-HB website prior to the start of Pit “F” cleanup. Along with advance onsite briefings for emergency responders, emergency contingencies are part of the planning for this work and are reviewed with DTSC and local first responders.

6. How will the community be protected during the excavation work to be conducted at Pit F in terms of soil handling, odor controls, offsite transportation and confirmation sampling?

The Pit F tent will be equipped with an air treatment system designed for this specific environment that maintains a vacuum to capture potential odors and volatile organic compound emissions. Emissions from excavation inside the tent will be collected and treated with vapor-phase granular activated carbon, through chemical adsorption. With chemical adsorption, the activated charcoal pores in the carbon trap and hold the contaminants. Pit F will be enclosed in this air-treated tent during the entirety of the Pit F clean-up work, including non-working hours. The tent will remain in place until the Pit F clean-up work is complete. In addition, odor monitoring outside of the tent and at the site perimeter will be conducted during the Pit F clean-up.

To ensure safety, the Pit F clean-up work will be conducted by specialized hazardous waste professionals using equipment specifically designed for the safe removal, transportation and disposal of waste materials like these. All work will be conducted under the direction and oversight of the DTSC and a special permit with the SCAQMD.

7. Will the community be presented with the backup data and research demonstrating the efficacy of the Pit F containment tent and GAC system prior to the start of excavation?

Yes. Testing on the effectiveness of emissions containment of the Pit F tent will be conducted prior to excavation and ASCON will share the results of these tests with the DTSC and DTSC will share the results with the public via DTSC EnviroStor. This data will include measurement of inward air flow velocity at the louvered windows, which is produced from multiple blowers extracting air from the tent into the air treatment system and which prevents the inside air from escaping by other means.

8. How will the public be able to see the daily air monitoring data in real time?

DTSC will be at the Ascon site during this work and will provide regular updates on independent monitoring. Additionally, air monitoring data will be posted to AsconHB.com and DTSC Envirostor database as soon as it is validated. The Ascon team is currently reviewing additional opportunities to speed up the availability of air data.

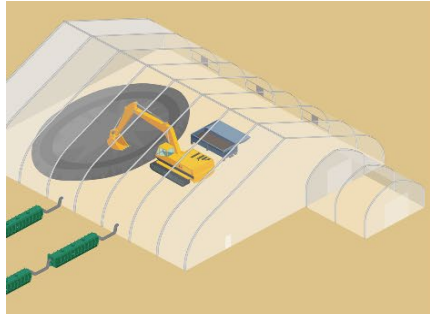
9. Since the tent cannot capture 100% of the gasses from escaping, there will be an opportunity for some air to be released when trucks leave the tent; how much air might be released? And how will these emissions be controlled?

Testing on the effectiveness of emissions containment of the Pit F tent will be conducted prior to excavation and the results of these tests will be shared by Ascon with the DTSC and the public. This data will include measurement of inward air flow velocity at the louvered windows, which is produced from multiple blowers extracting air from the tent into the air treatment system and which prevents inside air from escaping through other means.

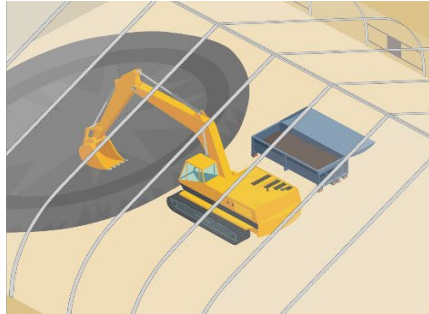
Frequently Asked Questions (Q) and Answers (A)

Ascon Landfill, Huntington Beach, California

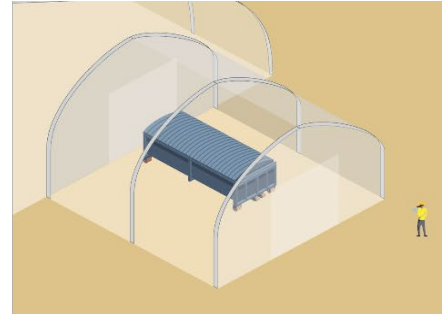
As an added measure of safety, the tent is equipped with an entry chamber that enables delivery and removal of waste bins without exposing the tent atmosphere to the outside. The two cargo doors through which the waste bins will pass are located at either side of the entry chamber and will never be open at the same time. With the use of a negative pressure atmosphere inside the tent and using the entry chamber cargo transfer, emissions inside the tent will be entirely directed to the air treatment system.



Pit F waste will be excavated inside the tent under negative pressure to direct emissions to the air treatment system



Excavated Pit F waste will be loaded into bins which will be sealed for transport while inside the tent



Fully sealed bins with Pit F waste will be pulled from the entry chamber and loaded onto haul trucks and transported to a permitted landfill the same day

10. Documentation from 2013 showed that the planned 2,250 CY could be 4,500 BCY or 8,100 tons. Why the difference?

2,250 cubic yards (CY) is the conservative estimate of materials in place to be excavated. As part of the excavation process, a cement mixture and other additives will be added to the waste material to assist in odor control and management of the viscous material. With these additives, the amount of material hauled off will be more than the 2,250 cubic yards currently in place and could be as much as 4,500 cubic yards (or ~8,100 tons).

11. The plan of the temporary structure and filtration for Pit F reflects capturing 95% of the emissions. What happens when the residents and nearby students are affected in anyway shape or form by the 5% or more that is released? Will SCAQMD or DTSC require a certain number of phone calls again within a certain radius in order to take any action? Or will they act immediately for one adverse report or call? How will this all be determined?

The 95% capture assumption used in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the SCAQMD application for the Pit F permit is conservatively low. It is anticipated (or likely) that the system will capture a greater volume, making it even more protective than the 95% conservative assumption in the permit. The Ascon team, SCAQMD and DTSC are committed to responding promptly to any community concerns or complaints during work.

Please contact the following for any concerns:
 Ascon Hotline: (714) 388-1825
 DTSC Project Manager: (714) 484-5478
 DTSC Public Participation Supervisor: (714) 715 4881
 SCAQMD Hotline: 1800-CUT-SMOG

12. Will there be security at the site, particularly in regards to homeless at or parked near the Site?

During Pit F work, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week onsite security will continue. There also will be increased presence of workers and monitoring technicians onsite.

13. What are Pit F working days/hours?

Work will occur between 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday work may occur only as needed to complete Pit “F” cleanup in a timely manner. Workers may begin arriving onsite and conduct health and safety briefings as early as 6 a.m.

14. Are there any issues with excavating the styrene in the summer? More problems than in cold weather/winter?

Since the excavation will be conducted within the tent and emissions will be controlled and treated, warm weather will not affect the work in Pit F. No adverse impact to the community is expected.

15. Is the noise level residential or industrial?

All work will be conducted in compliance with City of Huntington Beach’s noise ordinance for residential areas. Noise mitigation measures will be implemented to augment the existing 16-foot-high barrier fence/sound wall, including additional fencing and sound barriers around noisy equipment. To mitigate noise as much as possible to residents, the air treatment system and blowers will be situated on the western side of the tent, furthest away from homes located along Magnolia Street.

16. Where is location of the filter?

The air treatment/filtration system and blowers will be situated on the western side of the tent, furthest away from homes located along Magnolia Street.

17. When/how often will the air treatment vessels be changed?

Sampling and testing of the Pit F air treatment system (inlet and outlet concentrations) will be performed per the SCQMD Pit F permit-to-operate, which is protective of the community and environment. As an added measure of safety, there are two granular activated carbon filtration vessels. The leading vessel is required by the permit to be replaced/changed out if its efficiency falls below 90 percent.

18. Are there emergency plans in place?

ASCON is finalizing the emergency response plan for the Pit F remedial work and it will be shared with DTSC and the City of Huntington Beach.

19. Will work at Pit F create a need for residents, students and teachers or the public to relocate?

No. The planned clean-up work will employ safety measures to conduct this work with minimal impacts to nearby neighbors. Protective measures like the tent and air treatment systems are in place to provide a safe work environment for onsite workers, and to protect nearby residents and the public from air emissions, and limit impacts such as odors during work.

To ensure safety, the Pit F clean-up work will be conducted by specialized hazardous waste professionals using equipment specifically designed for the safe removal, transportation, and disposal of waste materials like these. All work will be conducted under the direction and oversight of the DTSC and a special permit with the SCAQMD.

20. What is makeup and purpose of the engineered environmental cap?

The primary purpose of an engineered environmental cap is to safely segregate and cover the remaining waste materials onsite for long-term protection of the public and environment. Engineering controls of the environmental cap prevents contact with the covered waste from storm water intrusion and vapor emission. The cap is designed to require minimal maintenance and withstand weathering, rain, settlement, and maximum credible seismic forces.

The engineered environmental cap will consist of an upper deck at a 3% grade surrounded by side slopes, with a stormwater collection system. The upper deck design includes a 2-foot-thick foundation layer, a geomembrane layer, a geonet biotic layer to prevent animals burrowing into the cap, and a 2-foot-thick vegetative soil layer. The side slopes will have a 2-foot-thick foundation layer, a 2-foot-thick clay barrier layer, a geonet biotic layer, and a 2-foot-thick vegetative soil layer. The vegetative layer will consist of plants native to Southern California, including flowering species that provide bird and butterfly habitat. The monitoring of the capped landfill includes soil gas, groundwater, and regular inspection for maintenance actions. The final approved cap design can be found in the Revised Final Remedial Design Report dated May 2017.