



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Managing Hazardous Waste

FACT SHEET, April 2005

Public Comments Requested on Modified Closure Plan for Former Northrop Grumman Facility Hazardous Waste Units



Photo Courtesy of Northrop Grumman Corporation

The former Northrop Grumman manufacturing plant is now owned by Vought Aircraft.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to comment on a proposed Modified Closure Plan (Plan) for the hazardous waste units at the former Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation East Complex Facility (Northrop Grumman Facility), located at One Northrop Avenue in Hawthorne, California. DTSC is the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) department that regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California.

The Plan allows the closure of five inactive permitted hazardous waste containment units called Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) units, located on North Road on the former aerospace manufacturing facility. The Notice of Exemption is our finding that the Plan activities which were implemented and the remaining condition of the environment will not result in significant effects to human health and the environment.

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The Plan is submitted as a modification to an existing closure plan that was approved by the DTSC in 1995. The Plan describes the activities conducted and required beyond the scope of the original closure plan to meet the cleanup and closure requirements, including targeted soil cleanup. The Plan revises the originally proposed performance standards to be based on a human health risk and ecological risk evaluation. The Draft Closure Certification Report (Report) provides the results of the health and environmental risk evaluation and a determination as to whether the RCRA units contributed or caused groundwater contamination in the area.

SITE HISTORY

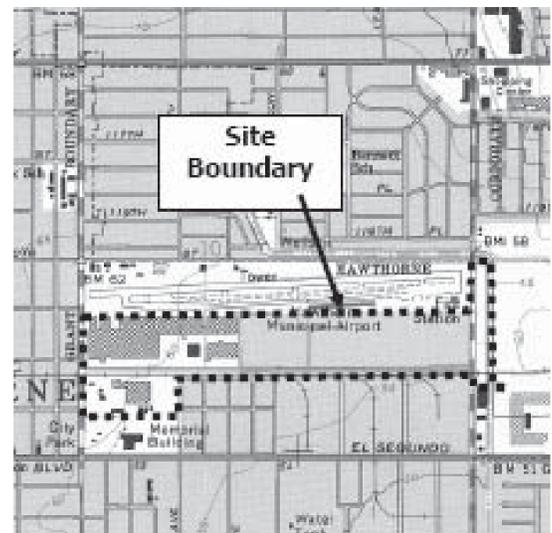
Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation and its predecessors conducted aircraft manufacturing at the facility from the 1940s until 2000 when it was sold to Vought Aircraft, Inc. The permitted RCRA units were formerly used to store hazardous waste from Northrop Grumman's large aircraft manufacturing operations at the site formerly known as the East Complex Facility. The site is now used by Vought Aircraft for assembly of commercial aircraft fuselage components primarily for the Boeing 747 and 767.

These hazardous waste units located near the northwestern corner of the facility consist of four above-ground storage tanks and a hazardous waste storage pad, which have not been used since the early

1990s. The units are permitted under an interim status document issued by the California Department of Health Services, DTSC's predecessor agency, to store the hazardous wastes described below:

- G1 Tank - 3,000-gallon waste coolant oil tank
- G2 Tank - 3,000-gallon waste hydraulic oil tank
- H1 Tank - 5,500-gallon waste coolant oil tank
- H2 Tank - 2,000-gallon waste 1,1,1-trichloroethane tank
- Satellite 7 - (100) 55-gallon drum storage pad contained miscellaneous wastes (alkalines, acids, petroleum hydrocarbons, and chlorinated solvents)

Former Northrop Grumman East Complex Facility



Public Comment Period

Announcing a 30-day public review and comment period on the proposed Modified Closure Plan for Northrop's East Complex former manufacturing facility. We will consider and respond to all public comments before making a final decision on this site. The Public Comment period is: April 25, 2005 to May 24, 2005.

The complete Draft Modified Closure Plan and other related project documents are available at the local information repositories listed on this fact sheet. Please send comments, postmarked by May 24, 2005 to: Ms. Maria Fabella, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201; or email: Mfabella@dtsc.ca.gov.

PREVIOUS CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

Northrop Grumman conducted closure activities for the RCRA units between 1995 and 1999 in accordance with a DTSC-approved closure plan. The closure activities consisted of pressure washing and sampling the tanks prior to their removal and disposal, and the removal of piping and concrete associated with the tanks. The soil was investigated and excavation was conducted. The contaminated soil was then transported to an appropriate location offsite.

The performance target or standard for clean closure of the RCRA units was to reach a level of non-detection of the contaminants. Based on sampling to confirm if the standard was reached, demolition of the Satellite 7 pad was not necessary. However, very low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as industrial solvents were detected in soils at Satellite 7.

Trichloroethane (TCA), a synthetic chemical, was detected in the soil beneath the G Tanks. TCA was formerly used to dissolve other substances, such as glues, paints, or to remove oil or grease from manufactured metal parts. Some soil contaminated with low levels of TCA was left in place because its safe removal was blocked by structures, foundations or water lines. Excavation areas were filled in with certified clean backfill material from an offsite source. The surface was covered with concrete and asphalt.

MODIFIED CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

After the 1995 closure performance standard could not be achieved, Northrop Grumman conducted modified closure activities including various soil, soil gas, and groundwater investigation and treatment cleanup actions using human health and environmental risk levels as the closure performance standard.

In all the soil samples collected during the modified

closure activities, only five chemicals were detected at concentrations slightly above their detection limits.

HEALTH RISK STUDY RESULTS

A human health/ecological risk evaluation performed in accordance with a DTSC-approved plan, concluded that the remaining low concentrations of contaminants do not pose a health risk to the public, or threats to the environment and groundwater quality. The results of the risk assessment are provided in the Report. Based on its review of the completed closure activities and findings of the risk assessment, the DTSC has concluded that the RCRA units can be granted final closure.

CLOSURE CERTIFICATION REPORT AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Northrop Grumman submitted the Report for the hazardous waste units, which reflects the results of the modified closure activities. The results demonstrated that the low residual contamination left in the environment at the units will not impact the groundwater underlying the Northrop Grumman Facility. The results of the closure activities were used in developing a health risk evaluation. This risk evaluation concluded there were no restrictions necessary, even for residential land uses, and that clean closure of the units was achieved.

The DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The DTSC determined that the modified closure activities did not have a negative effect on the environment because of the short duration, relatively low volume of contaminated soils that were excavated, and/or left in-place, and due to the controlled manner in which soils were excavated, loaded onto trucks, and taken offsite for disposal.

HOW TO COMMENT ON THE PLAN

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Plan during the 30-day public comment

period. Please send comments and/or questions to us on the proposal (see Comment Form enclosed). Your comments must be postmarked by May 24, 2005.

Our Department will review all comments received, make necessary revisions to the Plan and approve the final plan. Also a response to any comment received will be prepared and mailed to everyone who has submitted a comment with a return address.

DTSC may conduct a public meeting on the Plan during the comment period if there is significant community interest, or if one is requested. To request a public meeting or a briefing, please contact: Ms. Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551- 2919 or email: makula@dtsc.ca.gov

WHERE TO FIND THE DOCUMENTS

Project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Hawthorne Library
12700 Grevillea Avenue
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 679-8193

Hours: Sunday and Monday - Closed
Tuesday-Wednesday 11 a.m.– 8 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m.– 6 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio at (818) 551-2886
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

WHO TO CALL AT OUR AGENCY

If you have any questions about the closure activities, please contact:

Maria Fabella, Project Manager
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551-2918
Email: mfabella@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551- 2917
Email: makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sra. Yolanda Garza, Jefe de Unidad del DTSC, al (818) 551-2955.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551-2176
Email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at: (1-888-877-5378), or by calling Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2917.