



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, October 2006

Proposed Interim Measures Work Plan - Soil Vapor Extraction for Rho-Chem Facility, Inglewood, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to comment on a **Proposed Interim Measures Work Plan** (IM Plan) for the Rho-Chem Corporation facility (facility) located in the City of Inglewood, California. The Proposed IM Plan describes the interim measures using a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system to clean-up the contaminated soil impacted by volatile organic compounds at the facility.

Our agency is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) that regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. As a state regulatory agency, DTSC oversees all facility's hazardous waste management operations, including Corrective Action.

This fact sheet contains information on:

- How to give us your comments
- Facility background
- Corrective Action Process
- Proposed Draft Interim Measures Work Plan
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Project contacts

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OCTOBER 23, 2006 THROUGH NOVEMBER 21, 2006

DTSC is announcing a 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Interim Measures Work Plan - Soil Vapor Extraction System and the Proposed Negative Declaration for the Rho-Chem facility. We will consider and respond to all public comments before making a final decision on the IM Plan and the Negative Declaration.

The complete IM Plan and other related project documents are available at the information repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet. **Please mail or e-mail comments, postmarked by November 21, 2006 to:**

Mr. Liang Chiang, P.E., Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
E-mail: LChiang@dtsc.ca.gov

A public meeting will be held if there is significant public interest.



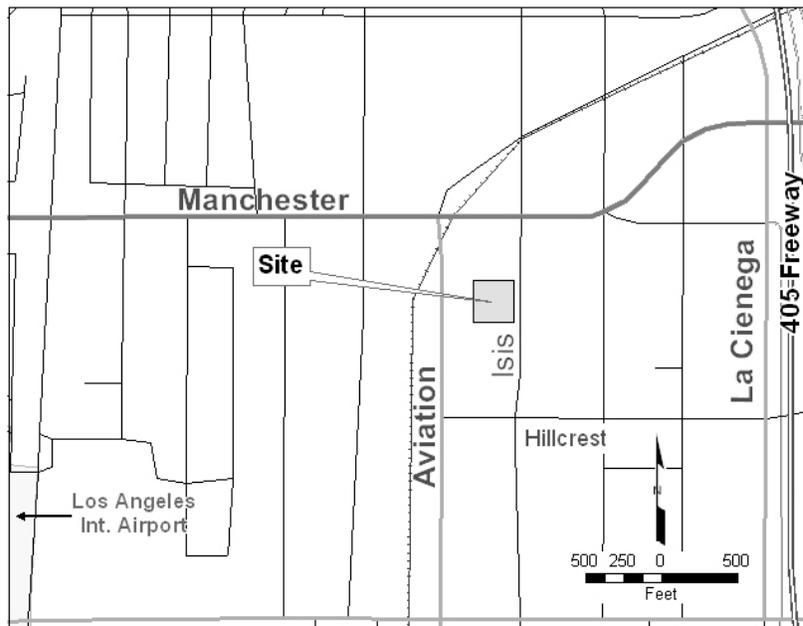


Figure 1: Site Location Map

Facility Background

The facility is located on a 1.1-acre parcel at 425 Isis Avenue in Inglewood, California (Figure 1), in a predominantly industrial and commercial area.

The facility recycles solvents and is classified as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Management Facility. In September 1990, DTSC granted a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit which allowed the facility to transfer, treat, and store hazardous waste. The facility consists of an approximately 3,300 square foot, one story building that houses administrative offices, a laboratory, and drum storage areas. Outside the building are aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), and a drum storage area.

The facility (formerly known as American Better Chemical Company) began operations about 1953. Initial operations included the bulk storage and distribution of oils, lubricants, and solvents. The facility began recycling waste solvents in 1964. The facility, renamed Rho-Chem Corporation in 1974, added repackaging and distribution of virgin solvents to its operations and continued waste solvent recycling activities.

Currently the facility operations and services include liquid fuel blending, solvent recycling (fraction distillation and thin film evaporation), and solvent distribution. The facility also accepts solid waste for fuel blending.

Residues from the solvent recycling operation are incorporated into the fuel blending process. Emissions from the tank farm areas, bottling,

drumming, and truck unloading and loading operations are captured and routed to an on-site vapor control system.

The facility currently utilizes three drum-storage areas (with a total permitted storage capacity of 1080 waste drums), and twelve ASTs (with a total capacity of 88,000 gallons), for waste storage and treatment. Eleven ASTs (with a total storage capacity of 80,000 gallons) are used to store virgin and recycled solvents.

Corrective Action and Investigations at the Facility

The California Health and Safety Code and RCRA require corrective action for all releases of hazardous wastes or constituents from a facility engaging in hazardous waste management, regardless of when the waste was released.

Following is a summary of the work done at the facility since the Corrective Action process was initiated in 1988:

A **RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA)** was conducted in late 1988. The assessment identified 36 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and 3 additional Areas of Concern (AOCs).

A **RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)** indicated that the soil beneath the facility was contaminated

primarily by chlorinated and non-chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These compounds included: acetone, 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), ethylbenzene, methylene chloride, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), tetrachloroethene (PCE), 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA), trichloroethene (TCE), and toluene. These compounds are principally used as industrial solvents such as degreasers.

The contaminated soil has been identified at locations where hazardous wastes and materials may have been managed or stored.

VOCs are present in groundwater at a depth of 100 feet below ground surface. The primary VOCs detected in groundwater include TCE and PCE.

Proposed Interim Measures Work Plan

The facility has submitted a proposed IM Plan to DTSC which consists of installing a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system to mitigate the VOC contaminated soil in the affected areas and along the site boundary.

The proposed SVE system has been designed to extract soil vapor from the zone between the land surface and water table (vadose zone). The SVE system includes 11 shallow and two deep SVE wells; five vapor monitoring wells; a positive displacement blower or liquid ring pump; and a thermal/catalytic oxidation system.

The SVE Interim Measure is proposed based on effectiveness, ability to implement, reliability, cost and because it is most protective of human health and the environment.

Additional information on the SVE can be viewed at: <http://sve.ucdavis.edu/index.htm>

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The approval of the IM Plan is a discretionary, regulatory decision. CEQA requires that DTSC analyze and consider the potential impacts of a remedy before making a final decision. Pursuant to CEQA, DTSC has prepared a Negative Declaration which states that the project will not have significant effect on human health or the environment.

Public Participation

The public and interested agencies are encouraged to review and submit comments on the Draft IM Plan and the Negative Declaration. Please mail or e-mail comments, postmarked by November 21, 2006 to: Mr. Liang Chiang, P.E., Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Ave., Glendale, CA 91201, e-mail: LChiang@dtsc.ca.gov.

Following the close of the comment period, DTSC will consider all comments, and then make its final decision on the Draft IM Plan and Negative Declaration. The information repositories listed below will contain a record of DTSC's final decision and responses to public comments. All persons submitting comments along with their name and address will be notified of DTSC's final decision and will receive a copy of DTSC's written response to comments.

Future Activities

The future corrective action activities to be conducted by the facility and DTSC:

- The Facility will submit for DTSC's review and approval a draft IM plan which will describe actions to address the contaminated groundwater.
- The Facility will conduct a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) which proposes remedies to reduce the risk of exposure and submit the CMS Report to DTSC for review and approval.
- DTSC will review and consider the potential impacts of the proposed remedies pursuant to CEQA.
- DTSC will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed remedies and environmental review. DTSC will consider all comments before making a final decision.
- DTSC will approve the remedies that are most protective of human health and the environment, based on performance, feasibility, cost and other factors.
- The facility will implement and maintain the remedies selected.

Where to find the Documents

The key technical documents are available for review at the following locations:

Inglewood Public Library

101 W Manchester Blvd
Inglewood, California 90301
Contact: Reference Desk
Phone: (310) 412-5380
Monday-Thursday: 10 am – 8 pm
Friday: 10 am – 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 6 pm
Sunday: 1 pm – 5 pm



The Administrative Record pertaining to this project is available for review at:

DTSC Regional Records Room

1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
Phone: (818) 551-2886
Contact: Jone Barrio for appointment
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For More Information

If you need more information or have any question regarding the project, please contact the following DTSC representatives:

Liang Chiang, P.E.

Project Manager
(818) 551-2964 or LChiang@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula

Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2917 or MAkula@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Toll Free #: 1-866-495-5651

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia

Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176 or JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Visit our web site: www.dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1(888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917 regarding the Rho-Chem project.