



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



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2008

## Romic's Draft Closure Plan Open for Public Comment



Entrance to the former Romic facility from Bay Road, East Palo Alto

### Introduction

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to comment on the Draft Closure Plan and the proposed California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA) Negative Declaration prepared for Bay Enterprises formerly known as Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation (Romic) in East Palo Alto. This Plan outlines the procedures proposed by Romic and their contractors to remove the above-ground solvent recycling equipment, related tanks and piping, and storage buildings. We invite you to attend a public workshop to learn more about this proposal and a public hearing to provide your comments. Please see the box at the bottom of this page for details. The 45-day public comment period begins **April 29, 2008 and ends June 16, 2008.**

#### Public Workshop and Hearing

Public Workshop starts at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 13, 2008

Public Hearing starts at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2008

We will hold both meetings in the city council chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall,  
2415 University Avenue East Palo Alto, California 94303

For information on accessibility, please call Nathan Schumacher at toll free  
(866) 495-5651 one week in advance of the event.

## **Draft Closure Plan describes closing procedures**

DTSC is responsible for overseeing closure of the Romic facility. The facility permanently closed in 2007 and all stored hazardous waste has been removed from the site. The Draft Closure Plan describes the procedures that Romic will follow during Phase 1 closure activities for its facility.

The first phase of closure will take about one year from the time DTSC approves a Closure Plan.

Phase 1 focuses on removal of all the above-ground storage structures, related equipment, and surface contamination. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide the oversight for Phase 2, which focuses on the subsurface investigation of both soil and groundwater, and its cleanup

The primary goal of this Closure Plan is to decontaminate and remove all above-ground equipment and structures used for hazardous waste in compliance with regulations. The Closure plan describes all the steps involved in the decontamination and removal process.

### **Decontamination – an important part of the process**

Decontamination of all the above-ground equipment has been divided into three phases: 1) visual inspection of the equipment, 2) washing of the equipment, and 3) verification sampling to show that the equipment has been successfully decontaminated.

Activities begin with a visual inspection of each piece of equipment to locate stains and residue, as well as find the best way to access the equipment for decontamination.

The next step is to pressure wash the equipment to remove all residues. Any stains will be sprayed with soap followed by another high pressure wash. Rinse water will be tested to decide whether the decontamination is successful. If it is not clean, then the crew will repeat the process or decide that it cannot be cleaned. If a piece of equipment cannot be cleaned, workers will cut it up and dispose of it as hazardous waste. All wash water will be collected and sampled to determine if it can be sent for off-site treatment or disposed of as hazardous waste.

After decontamination activities are completed, final rinse water from all equipment and structures will be sampled to confirm that they meet the decontamination standards in the Closure Plan approved by DTSC.

### **Decontamination Standards outlined in the Draft closure Plan**

Phase 1 Draft Closure Plan outlines four separate decontamination standards for the facility:

- Decontamination standards for equipment planned for resale
- Decontamination standards for equipment planned for scrap
- Decontamination standards for equipment planned for non-hazardous waste disposal
- Decontamination standards for equipment planned for hazardous waste disposal

### **CEQA**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires DTSC to analyze possible negative effects on the environment caused by implementation of this Draft Closure Plan. DTSC has completed an Initial Study that evaluates the potential environmental impacts and has concluded that the closure activities are unlikely to produce any significant negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, DTSC proposes a Negative Declaration.

### **Romic is located in an industrial area**

Romic is located in an industrial area of East Palo Alto at 2081 Bay Road. Romic sits on 14-acres, about one-half mile west of the San Francisco Bay and is bordered to the north and east by a tidal marsh.

Neighbors include an auto dismantling yard, a Pacific Gas and Electric substation, and a closed facility formerly owned by Catalytica Corporation. Residences are about 2,000 feet to the west. The closest elementary school is about one-half mile away, and the Ravenswood Preserve is to the east. Please see the site map on page three.

## Operations began in 1956

When operating, Romic would receive hazardous waste at the facility for storage, treatment and recycling. Romic mostly received waste from industrial businesses. Examples of waste Romic used to accept include paint thinner, antifreeze, discarded paints and oils, inks, and adhesives. Romic has been in operation at the East Palo Alto location since 1963. Prior owners have also used the site for storing chemicals since 1956.

## Enforcement History

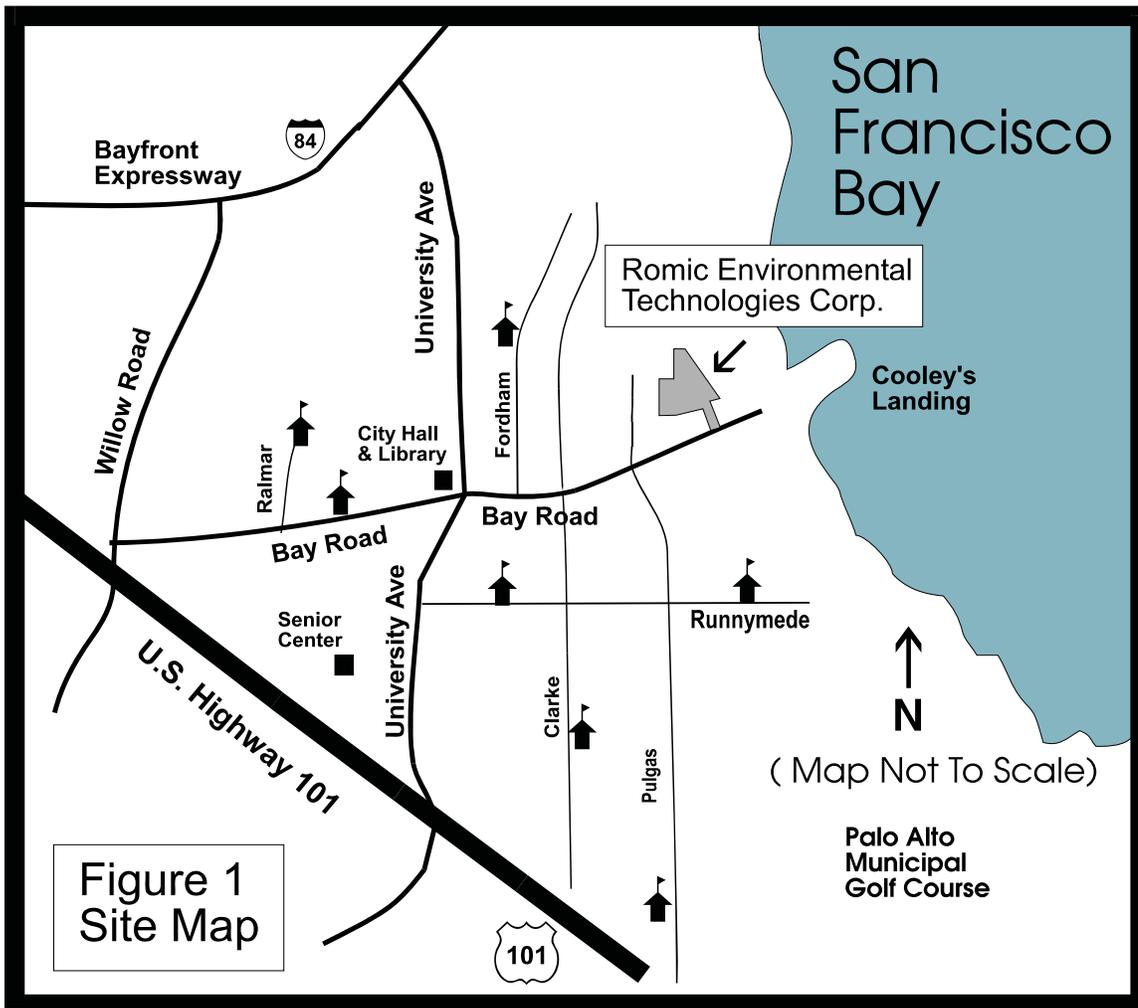
On August 29, 2007, DTSC ordered Romic to close their East Palo Alto facility because of its history of violations and accidents. DTSC is still investigating the June 2006 release from a tanker

truck, the August 2007 employee burn incident, and the January 2007, Kern County transporter incident.

DTSC conducts annual inspections. Romic was inspected most recently on March 19, 2008 and prior to that in August 2007. On April 7, 2005, DTSC announced an \$849,500 settlement with Romic which resolves hazardous waste violations that occurred at both the East Palo Alto Romic facility and the Redwood City Romic facility. These violations occurred from 1999 to 2004. The settlement includes major violations.

## You can learn more and give comments at our public workshop and hearing

DTSC will hold a public workshop on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with a



presentation on the Draft Closure Plan.

Additionally, DTSC will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 29, 2008 starting at 6:30 p.m. We will hold both events in city council chambers at the East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto. During the workshop, we will give a presentation providing more detail about the Draft Closure Plan and will answer questions from the community. At the public hearing, a court reporter will be available to record all comments received.

### **You can participate in our decisions**

You can review the Draft Closure Plan, and other related documents, at the locations listed below

San Mateo County Public Library  
East Palo Alto Branch  
2415 University Avenue  
East Palo Alto, California 94303

(650) 321-7712 - call for hours of operation

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Berkeley Office  
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200  
Berkeley, California 94710

(510) 540-3800 - please call for an appointment

You can send any written comment to us between April 29, 2008, and June 16, 2008, in the following ways: Mail written comments to:

Su Patel  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

You may send your comments by e-mail to:  
[SPatel@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:SPatel@dtsc.ca.gov)

DTSC will make the final decision on the Draft Closure Plan only after public comments have been received and considered. At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will respond to comments received during the public comment period (including those given at the hearing and those submitted to us in writing during the comment period) in a Response to Comments Document. DTSC will place a copy of this document at the library and on our website.

Also, DTSC will provide a copy to those who commented.

### **You can contact us if you have further questions**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the following staff:

Su Patel  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 255-6428  
[SPatel@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:SPatel@dtsc.ca.gov)

Nathan Schumacher,  
Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Toll-free (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3650  
[NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov)

*For media inquiries, please contact:*  
Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer  
(818) 717-6573 or [JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED**

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding the former Romie Facility.

### **Anuncio**

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (866) 495-5651.