



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies Bay Area Drum Site in San Francisco

Berkeley - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has certified the completion of the hazardous substances cleanup at the Bay Area Drum Site. The site at 1212 Thomas Avenue in San Francisco includes the Bay Area Drum facility, eight adjacent residential properties and a vacant lot located along Shafter Avenue.

This certification means that all cleanup activities required by the Removal Action Workplan approved in December 1998 and the Remedial Action Plan approved in August 2000 are complete. The site is now suitable for residential or commercial development.

“We are pleased that completion of activities at this site allows for unrestricted redevelopment,” said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director. “In a city with the density of San Francisco, it is vital that contaminated areas like this are cleaned up to protect the public and the environment and then put back to productive use.”

From the mid-1940s until 1987, portions of the site were used by a number of different companies, (Bay Area Drum Company was the last company to operate at the site), as a reconditioning facility for drums used to store a variety of chemicals, including oils, solvents, paints and asphalt products. Drums at the facility were cleaned, reconditioned, repainted, and then sold to other companies. Chemicals used for cleaning and chemical residues from the drums contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

In 1986, DTSC found elevated levels of metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and solvents in soil and liquid samples taken at the Bay Area Drum Company facility. DTSC conducted further investigations and found elevated levels of lead, copper, cadmium, PCBs and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil and groundwater at the facility. In addition contamination was found in the backyard soils of eight homes adjacent to the facility, as well as in the soil and groundwater of the adjacent vacant lot.

Since 1993, some of the potentially responsible parties, including companies which sent used drums to the Bay Area Drum Company facility, have worked with DTSC to complete investigation and cleanup activities at the site.

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In 2001, approximately 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated from the site and disposed at an approved off-site facility. All excavated areas were then backfilled with clean soil. Residential cleanup standards were achieved for the site after completion of these activities in 2001.

In 2002, fencing and hydro-seeding were completed and an oxygen-releasing compound was injected into the groundwater to enhance the natural breakdown of VOCs. Samples collected at the site show that contaminants in the groundwater are now below the cleanup standards set for the site.

Groundwater at the site is still not suitable for drinking due to the low pumping rate and the potential for high salinity. Drinking water is provided to the surrounding residents by the San Francisco Water Hetch Hetchy System.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."