



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, August 2007

Cleanup Plan Available For Review

A draft plan to remove and dispose of lead, arsenic, benzene and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contaminated soil and soil vapor from the proposed Central Region Elementary School #16 (Site) is open for public review and comment. The Site is located on 49th Street and South Main Street. The proposed school will relieve overcrowding at 49th Street, Aurora, and Main Street Elementary Schools.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site History and Location
- Site Investigation and Results
- Cleanup Options
- Proposed Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Transportation Route for Work Trucks
- Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps
- Where to Find Site Documents

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk since the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of lead, arsenic, benzene and PCE contamination could cause adverse health effects, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recommended that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) prepare a cleanup plan that ensures future occupants, students and staff are not exposed to the contaminated soil. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Site History and Location

The Site is 3.18 acres and is bordered by South Main Street to the west, East 57th Street to the north, East 58th Street to the south, and commercial properties to the east. The LAUSD has acquired the properties that make up the Site. These properties consisted of mixed residential and light-industrial properties including auto repair, auto parts storage, a

Public Comment Period

August 9 – September 10, 2007

The Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid return envelope postmarked by **September 10, 2007**; or email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Amit Pathak, DTSC Project Manager, APathak@dtsc.ca.gov.

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Leticia Hernandez al (714) 484-5488 o número gratis 1-866-495-5651 oprima el **número 4***



tire and rubber company and a recycling facility. The properties are now vacant, the buildings have been demolished, and the area is surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Site Investigation and Results

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2005. During the investigations, elevated concentrations of lead and arsenic were found in shallow soil, and elevated concentrations benzene and PCE were identified in soil vapor. *Soil vapors are gases that form in the soil when chemicals evaporate.*

The source of the elevated lead in the former recycling facility is likely from the recent auto repair and parts storage and past salvage yard, recycling center, auto repair and storage operations at the Site. Additionally, the elevated lead and arsenic concentrations found at the Frank Fargo Tire & Rubber Company and Golden Gate Ironworks are related to past light-industrial operations at the Site. The lead-contaminated soil found in the residential area appears to be from lead-based paint used on the outside walls of the former buildings.

The source of the benzene was likely fuel leaks from the trucks and vehicles entering the Washington Recycling Facility. The PCE concentrations in soil vapor are found around the machining areas at the former Frank Fargo Tire & Rubber Company and are believed to be from solvents used to repair and degrease the machinery.

Cleanup Options

Removal action alternatives considered for arsenic and lead contaminated soil at this Site are as follows:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment On-site

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (*Capping*)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal (*dig and remove*)

Based on careful analysis of the options, Alternative 4, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment; in compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; feasible; permanent; and has a reasonable cost.

Removal action alternatives considered for benzene and PCE impacted soil vapor at this Site are as follows:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) (*remove or vacuum the harmful chemicals from the ground*)

Alternative 3 – Focused Excavation

Based on careful analysis of the options, Alternative 3, Focused Excavation is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment; in compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; feasible; permanent; and has a reasonable cost. Details of each of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 4 of the Draft RAW.

Proposed Plan

If excavation is selected, cleanup could take place as early as September 2007. A backhoe, bulldozer, tracked excavator, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment would be used to remove the contaminated soil. The soil may be temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. About 2,707 cubic yards (4,061 tons) of soil will be excavated. 1,186 cubic yards of arsenic and lead contaminated soil and 1,521 cubic yards of soil containing benzene and PCE impacted soil vapor. Cleanup will require excavation to a maximum depth of 20 feet.

For the benzene and PCE in soil vapor, approximately 1,521 cubic yards of soil will be excavated. This soil will be stockpiled onsite and analyzed. If the soil is found to be suitable as fill material, the soil may be re-used onsite. If the soil is found to be unusable, the soil will be taken off-site to a state-approved disposal facility.

Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup

Some of the actions the LAUSD will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Installation of temporary fencing with windscreens for security
- Driving at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Transportation Route for Work Trucks

It will take approximately 66 truckloads to remove the arsenic and lead contaminated soil. Trucks will enter the area through the driveways on 57th Street,

South Main Street and 58th Street. When leaving the Site, trucks will take 57th Street to access the 110 Freeway North. Truck loading will take place between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The soil will be transported to a State-approved disposal facility. The cleanup process is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete.

Notice of Exemption

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments received and make any necessary revisions to the draft plan prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. The soil removal will be conducted daily between 7:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. and is expected to begin in September 2007, pending the DTSC's final approval. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been reached and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Site Documents

The draft RAW and other related project documents for Central Region Elementary School #16 are available at the following locations:

Main Street Elementary School

Main Office
129 E. 53rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 232-4856

49th Street Elementary School

Main Office
750 East 49th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 234-9045

Junipero Serra Library

Reference Desk
4607 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: (323) 234-1685

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson, (714) 484-5337
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th St., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Andrew Fowler, (213) 893-7418
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

The documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site: www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651,
press option 4
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Amit Pathak
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5468
apathak@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Leticia Hernandez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (714) 484-5488 o número gratis 1-866-495-5651 oprima el número 4.

For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Jeanne Matsumoto, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651 and press option 4.

