



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 #14, October 2007

Former Kaiser Steel Mill (California Speedway) Five-Year Review Update

The purpose of the five-year review is to ensure that the environmental systems currently in place continue to be effective in protecting human health and the environment. This fact sheet explains the following:

- The Five-Year Review Process
- History and operations of the site
- Four operable units
- Other planned activities
- How to give us your comments

The Five-Year Process consists of seven steps

The first step is to notify the public. The second step is to review all relevant documents and data, to assess the performance of the environmental systems at the site. The third step is to conduct interviews. The fourth step is to inspect and conduct a site inspection. This will be done to verify the physical conditions of the site to ensure no bulges, cracks, or other damage in the cap is present. The fifth step is to collect supplemental data. The sixth step is to conduct technical assessment to determine if the remedy is functioning as intended by the decision documents. The seventh and final step is to prepare a report that summarizes the findings and provides the results of the technical assessment. The first five-year review was completed in 2002.



Map Showing Operable Unit No. 2, subject of the Five-Year Review

History and operations of the Site

The Kaiser Steel Resources facility, located in Fontana, was Southern California's leading producer of steel and steel related products for more than 40 years. The 880-acre mill site once supplied steel for WWII shipyards and in 1983 the Kaiser Steel Corporation (KSC) went bankrupt – the mill was shut down permanently. This parcel remained abandoned for the next 10 years.



The site has since been split into four separate areas: the Tar Pits area, the By-products area, the ChemWest area, the East Slag Pile Landfill area, and each are described in further detail below.

Four operable units within the site

A brief explanation of the ongoing activities, investigations and chemicals of concern are explained as follows:

Operable Unit 1 (OU-1): located in the northeastern portion of the former steel mill site and includes the Tar Pits. The Tar Pits included three pits containing the heavier fractions of coal tar from a coking operation and associated contaminated soil. This decanter tank tar sludge is an EPA listed hazardous waste (K087). Laboratory analyses indicated high concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phenols, benzene, toluene, xylenes, and styrene. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted in June 2001 which proposed placing a cap over the tar pits. The RAP was completed and approved in June 2003 and ongoing semi-annual inspections of the cap are occurring.

Operable Unit 2 (OU-2): located in the north-central portion of the former steel mill site, the By-products area includes: underground storage tank area; lime sludge lagoon; coke quenching sumps; slag quenching pits; blast furnace gas washer water sludge beds; filter cake storage areas; and ore handling area. The By-products area was where coke was processed to produce other materials of potential value. This area was found to contain elevated soil concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Remedial actions included construction of a 14-acre synthetic membrane cap, in-situ soil vapor extraction, soil excavation, on-site soil treatment, and off-site disposal of over 7,000 cubic yards of impacted soil, and treatment of 21,000 tons of residuals from air pollution control systems. After the cap and vapor extraction system were installed in 1995, DTSC issued a site certification letter, stating that all necessary remedial work at the site was complete. The site has been redeveloped into The California Speedway. Any excavation or subsurface work that disturbs the soil at any depth requires the approval of DTSC and ongoing quarterly groundwater monitoring and annual inspections of the cap are occurring.

Operable Unit 3 (OU-3): contains the East Slag Pile Landfill and Chrome Ponds area. This area covers approximately 66 acres in the southern part

of the former steel mill. This area consists of a mound of slag and waste materials. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was approved in April 2006. Studies show that within the landfill, metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds, and landfill gas are present. A draft RAP that proposes the installation of a cover with a landfill gas control system has been submitted and is currently being finalized. Investigation of the Chrome Ponds is ongoing.

Operable Unit 4 (OU-4): located north of the East Slag Pile Landfill and is the Consolidated Waste Cell (ChemWest Upper which overlies five ferrous chloride ponds). Investigation of this unit is ongoing.

Other planned activities

Other major activities planned at the former Kaiser Steel Mill facility within the next few years include the following:

Winter 2007 – Remedial Investigation of OU-3 (Chrome Ponds) and OU-4 (Consolidated Waste Cell)

Spring/Summer 2008 – Closure construction of the East Slag Pile Landfill Area (Estimated 6-month construction period)

Summer 2008 – Groundwater Remedial Investigation

Spring/Summer 2009 – Closure construction of OU-4 (estimated 6-month construction period)

How to give us your comments

We welcome any comments you may have regarding the investigation and cleanup of the former Kaiser Steel Mill. A form is provided at the end of this fact sheet. Please send your comments to:

Greg Sweel, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630
Email: gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov.

Where to find Site related documents

Copies of documents related to the site are available for your review at the following locations:

Fontana Public Library
16860 Valencia Avenue
Fontana, California 92335
Tel: (909) 822-2321

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact the file coordinators at (714) 484-5337 or (714) 484-5336 to make an appointment.

For more information

If you have questions regarding the site, please contact either of these people at our agency:

Greg Sweel, Project Manager at
(714) 484-5413 or gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov

Leticia Hernandez, Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5488 or (866) 495-5651 (toll free)
lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov

Media inquiries

For media questions, please contact Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176 or email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

You can get information by using the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask to speak to Leticia Hernandez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5488 or (866) 495-5651 (toll free).

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

Comment Form

If you have any comments concerning this **Five-Year Review Update** of the former Kaiser Steel Mill, please send your comments to: Greg Sweel, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630. Please include your name and address if you would like to be placed on DTSC's mailing list. You may also email this same information to gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Organization (optional): _____

Phone (optional): _____ e-mail (optional): _____

Comments (attach additional pages if needed): _____

Note: Your comments are part of the public record and, if requested, may be subject to release.



Leticia Hernandez
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

INSIDE: Notification of Five-Year Review of former Kaiser Steel Mill (California Speedway)