



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, November 2006

DTSC Proposes Changes to Cleanup Plan at Varian Site

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing additional measures to clean up volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater at the Varian Site (Site). The Site is located at 611 Hansen Way in Palo Alto, California (see Site Map on Page 2).

A cleanup plan, called a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), was approved in 1994 for this Site. The 1994 RAP required removal and treatment of VOCs in the groundwater. When DTSC decides to modify an approved cleanup plan, surrounding residents are notified of the change through a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The draft ESD describes the proposed change of adding sodium permanganate (permanganate) to the groundwater at the Site to destroy VOCs in place. The draft ESD, a California Environmental Quality Act -Notice of Exemption and other site related documents are available for public review at the locations listed on Page 4.

This fact sheet provides you with the following information:

- Site Location, History and Background
- 1994 Approved RAP (cleanup plan)
- Draft Explanation of Significant Differences (changes to the cleanup plan)
- Proposed Activities
- Response to Comments
- California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

November 27, 2006 to December 29, 2006

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft ESD. DTSC is holding a public comment period beginning November 27, 2006 and ending December 29, 2006. Please mail your written comments to: Jayantha Randeni, DTSC Project Manager, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94710. All comments must be postmarked by December 29, 2006. All e-mail comments should be sent to jrandeni@dtsc.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2006.

For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact Michelle Trotter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826, toll free at (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-6441 or by e-mail to mtrotter@dtsc.ca.gov. A public meeting will be considered if a written request identifying the issues to be raised is submitted to Michelle Trotter by December 29, 2006.



Site Location, History and Background

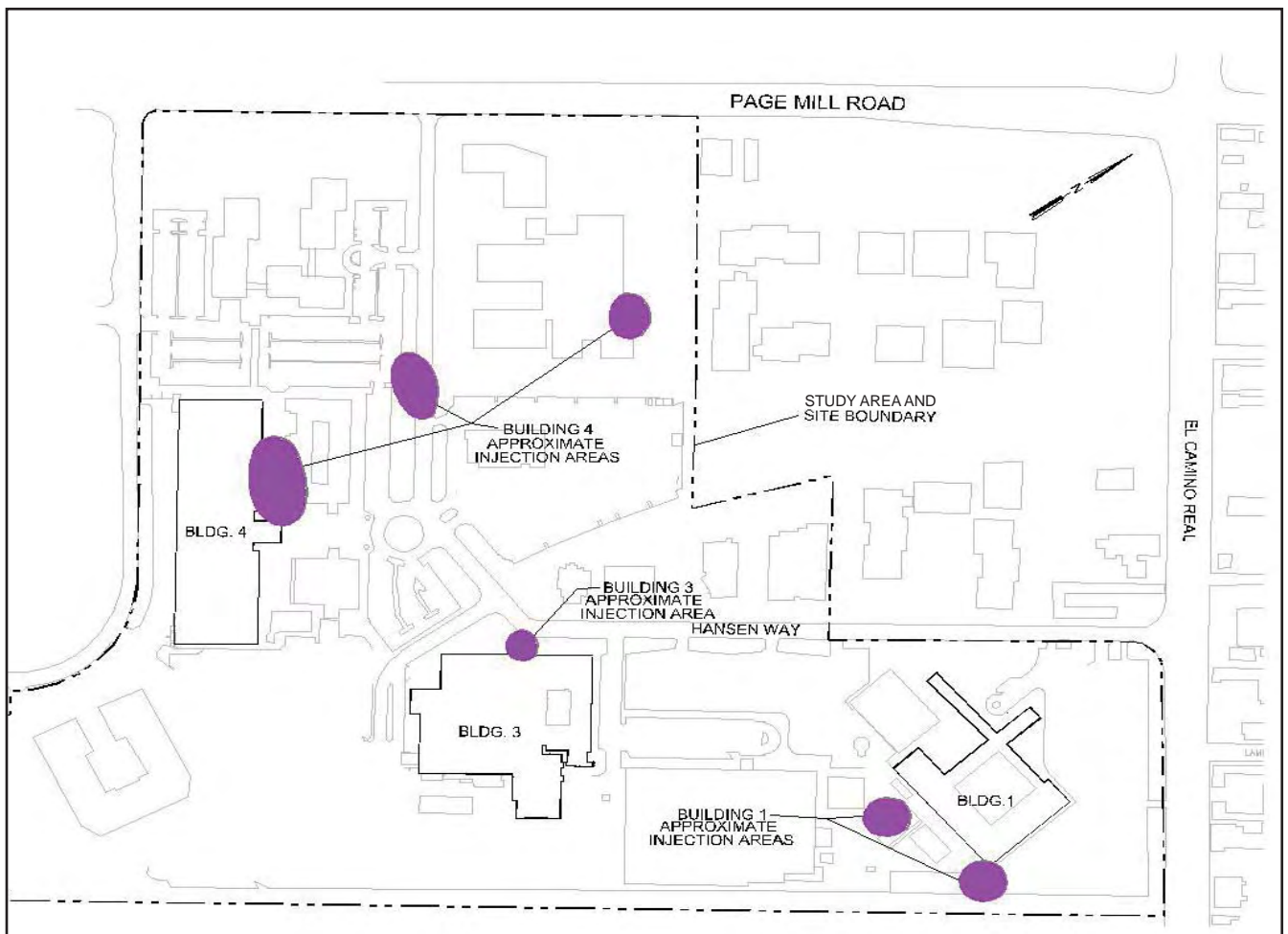
The Varian Site is located on a 70-acre parcel in the Stanford Research Park (SRP) in Palo Alto. The Site is used for commercial, manufacturing, research, and office space. The Site is bounded by El Camino Real to the northeast, Page Mill Road on the northwest, Hanover Street on the southwest, and the Barron Park neighborhood on the southeast. The Site has historically been used for research and light manufacturing for more than 40 years. Some areas of the Site were used for manufacturing and chemical storage, including VOCs.

Soil and groundwater investigations were conducted at the Site between 1986 and 1994 under DTSC oversight. Results from the investigations indicated the presence of VOCs in the groundwater beneath the Site. The Site is divided into three main areas where groundwater is contaminated with VOCs. These areas, referred to as Building 1, Building 3, and Building 4, correspond to buildings where known or suspected VOC sources historically existed. (See map below)

1994 Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

In 1994, DTSC approved a cleanup plan called a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to clean up the VOCs, tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) in the groundwater at the Site. The RAP consisted of the installation of a groundwater extraction and treatment (pump and treat) system. Contaminated groundwater beneath the Site is pumped from 14 on-site extraction wells and treated using an air stripper. The air stripper removes the VOCs from the extracted groundwater. Some of the treated groundwater is then re-used for landscape irrigation at the Site. Treated groundwater in excess of irrigation needs is discharged into the City of Palo Alto storm drain system which flows to Matadero Creek. Implementation of the cleanup plan began in 1995. The extraction systems continue to remove VOCs from the groundwater.

Groundwater beneath this Site is not used for drinking water. The drinking water for the area is provided by the local water district.



Draft Explanation of Significant Differences

The draft ESD document describes the proposed changes and provides a summary of the information that led to the proposed changes.

Although the existing extraction and treatment system was found to be effective in containing VOCs and reducing their concentrations, that process has been and is expected to continue to be slow. In 2003 a pilot study was conducted in one area of the Site to evaluate whether the addition of permanganate could expedite cleanup of groundwater. The pilot study results showed VOCs in groundwater can be successfully destroyed in place by injecting permanganate into the groundwater. The draft ESD proposes to stop the groundwater extraction and treatment systems and to inject permanganate solution into those areas of the Site with the highest remaining VOC concentrations.

VOC levels in and down-gradient from the treatment areas are expected to decrease after injection of permanganate solution. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted to monitor the effectiveness of the permanganate injections. The permanganate solution is expected to last approximately one to three years. If monitoring reveals VOC levels in the groundwater above the cleanup goals after the permanganate solution has been used up, then additional permanganate solution may be injected or the extraction and treatment systems may be restarted.

The supporting information for the draft ESD is contained in a document called the Second Five Year Remedial Action Status and Effectiveness Evaluation Report for 611 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California, dated June 7, 2006. This document can also be found in the information repository listed on Page 4.

Proposed Activities

The following activities are proposed:

- Shutdown of the groundwater extraction and treatment system;
- Drilling of monitoring wells down-gradient of treatment areas;
- Injection of permanganate solution into existing wells; and
- Groundwater monitoring to monitor the distribution, persistence and effectiveness of the permanganate injections.

Response to Comments

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will consider comments received during the public comment period and either approve, modify or deny the ESD. DTSC will then prepare a Response to Comments document. This document includes all the comments we receive about the draft ESD during the comment period. DTSC will respond to all of the comments received and include them as part of the document. The Response to Comments document will be placed in the Information Repositories. Anyone who submits a comment about the Draft ESD during the comment period will receive a copy of the Response to Comments document.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A Notice of Exemption has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. This document will be filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. The NOE is DTSC's finding that the proposed cleanup would have no impact on the environment or community.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can use the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Ask to speak to Michelle Trotter, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-6441.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

For More Information

Please contact the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the draft ESD or the Notice of Exemption, please contact:

Jayantha Randeni

DTSC Project Manager
(510) 540-3806 or
jrandeni@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact:

Michelle Trotter

DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Toll free at 1(866) 495-5651 or
(916) 255-6441
By email at mtrotter@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact:

Angela Blanchette

DTSC Public Information Officer
(510) 540-3732 or
ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Information Repositories

The Draft Explanation of Differences and related documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

USGS Library

345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 329-5027
Hours: M-F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

DTSC File Room

700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
Hours: M-F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Please call for an appointment

For additional information, please check out our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

For additional information on the Varian Site, please visit the DTSC website at:
http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=43360086