



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Our mission is
to provide the
highest level of
safety, and to
protect public
health and the
environment
from toxic
harm.*



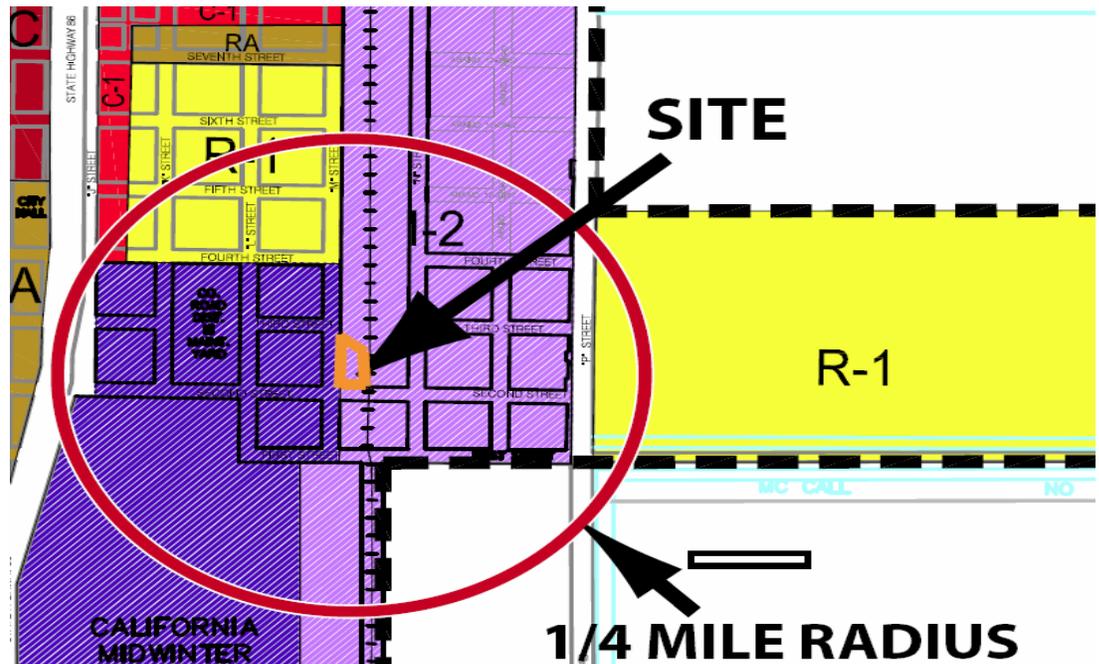
State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, January 2009

Shell Chemical Work Plan for Soil Cleanup Available For Review and Comment



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the cleanup of contaminated soil at 500 East Second Street in Imperial, California (Site). A Work Plan describing proposed procedures for the cleanup is available for public review and comment. Present investigation results indicate that there are pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil from previous commercial operations on the property. The contamination is at levels that require cleanup prior to re-use of the property for commercial or industrial purposes. The Site is owned by Union Pacific Rail Road and leased to Shell Chemical LP (Shell).

30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

January 20, to February 18, 2009

Your participation is encouraged. The Work Plan, CEQA, and other related project documents for this Site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision after all public comment has been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments postmarked, or emailed by 5 p.m. on **February 18, 2009**, to:

Irena Edwards, Project Manager, iedwards@dtsc.ca.gov

**Para información en español por favor comuníquese con
Jeanne Garcia al número 1-818-717-6573**



This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, the Site could be occupied in the future for commercial/industrial uses. Because long-term exposure to elevated levels of chemicals of concern (COC) can cause adverse health effects, DTSC is working with Shell on a cleanup plan to treat the contaminated soil in order to protect the potential future occupants of the property. DTSC will oversee the proposed cleanup action.

History and Operations at Site

From the 1950s until 1984, the half-acre Site was used for formulating agricultural pesticides. The Site has remained inactive since operations ceased in 1984. The Site previously contained several structures that were removed between 1995 and 2001. The site is currently a vacant lot surrounded by a fence.

The Site is located in an industrial area and is bounded by railroad tracks on the north and east and commercial businesses on the south and west. The nearest residential area is over 500 feet away to the northwest.

Environmental Investigations

Soil and groundwater investigations were conducted at the Site in 1995, 2001, 2003, and 2007. These investigations identified that the soil was contaminated with agricultural pesticides (including DDD, DDE, DDT, and toxaphene) and VOCs. Of two groundwater samples collected in 1995, VOCs were detected in one sample, while pesticides and herbicides were detected in the other. The levels found in

soil during the investigations are above regulatory levels for commercial/industrial use of the property, therefore, cleanup is needed.

Before the soil cleanup begins, additional samples will be collected to further characterize soil, soil gas, and groundwater at the Site and areas adjacent to the Site. The purpose of this additional investigation is to establish baseline conditions of the Site prior to the cleanup and to establish background concentrations of the COCs near the Site. The results of these investigations will also be used to evaluate whether the proposed cleanup plan needs to be modified.

Proposed Cleanup Option

The Site soil will be treated in place using Daramend[®] to stimulate in-situ biodegradation of the contaminants. Daramend[®] is a biological treatment that consists of granular iron and organic material derived from plant fibers. The organic fraction of the product coupled with the reduced iron facilitates degradation of chlorinated compounds (the pesticides and VOCs). The treatment itself consists of (1) an initial tilling of the soil; (2) applying the Daramend[®] powder evenly to the soil surface; (3) tilling in the mixture; (4) irrigating the soil; (5) waiting 3 to 7 days to allow for degradation of COCs to occur; and (6) a final rotary tilling of the soil to augment further degradation of any remaining COCs. After the soil treatment, additional soil samples will be collected to confirm the effectiveness of the treatment. Results of these samples will be used to evaluate whether additional soil treatment is needed.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control fugitive (blown) dust
- Tires on vehicles entering and existing the Site will be cleaned to remove soils and debris
- Continuous air monitoring at and downwind of the Site to ensure the

amount of dust stays at safe levels for off-site residents

Contact: Please call (714) 484-5337 or (714) 484-5336 to make an appointment

California Environmental Quality Act

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 the short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed as investigation derived waste, and the controlled way in which the soils will be treated on-site.

Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the Work Plan prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. The soil treatment process is expected to take place in March 2009, and is expected to last approximately 14 days. After the treatment process additional soil samples will be collected and tested to confirm that COCs previously identified in the soil no longer pose a threat to human health and the environment. A Remedial Action Completion Report describing this post-treatment confirmation sampling will be submitted to the DTSC for review and approval. The report will provide recommendations for implementing any additional remedial action required (i.e. additional Daramend treatment® or focused excavation of soil exceeding cleanup goals).

Where to Find the Documents

The Work Plan and other related documents for the Site are available for review at the following locations:

City of Imperial Public Library
200 W. 9th Street
PO Box 38
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 355-1332

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Site documents are also available at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov (select the Advanced Search option and enter the Site address: 500 East Second Street, Imperial, California) for your review. If required, a computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Who to Contact for Information

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

Irena Edwards
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5385
iedwards@dtsc.ca.gov

Tim Chauvel
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5487
Toll free: (866) 495-5651
tchauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Sandra Friedman
DTSC Public Information Officer
(714) 484-5383
sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Irena Edwards at (714) 484-5385 regarding the (Former Valley Chemical facility) project.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

If you have any comments concerning the proposed soil cleanup at the **Shell Chemical Facility**, please fill out the information below and mail this form to Irena Edwards, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue., Cypress, CA 90630 or email to iedwards@dtsc.ca.gov. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments. All comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than February 18, 2009.

Name: _____

Agency or Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please add to the site mailing list. Please delete from the site mailing list.

Comments: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances
Control
Irena Edwards
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630