

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Hazardous Waste Management Program
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201

Project Title: Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner
Closure Plan Modification
and
Proposed Completion of Corrective Action

Project Location: 8841 East Slauson Avenue
Pico Rivera, California

County: Los Angeles County

Project Description: The proposed closure of the Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner Facility by limited excavation of 100 yards of soil at the RCRA unit, and No Further Action for the remainder of the Facility.

Background:

The Los Angeles County, Department of Agricultural Commissioner (LACDAC), Pico Rivera facility, is an approximately 1.7 acre parcel of land which has been used by the LACDAC since 1930 for the following purposes: the raising of beneficial insects, mixing of rodent and bird baits for pest control, disposal of pesticides acquired from the facility's pesticide collection program, and the incineration of plants held under quarantine for pests or disease.

The facility is located in a mixed residential, industrial, and commercial area. The facility is bounded on the north, west, and east by residential properties, and industrial facilities to the south of the facility. The facility is surrounded by an 8-foot high concrete block wall on the east, north, and west sides, and an 8-foot chain-link fence with a locked gate on the south.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit on June 20, 1985 to allow the facility to store hazardous waste in the following Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) units:

- o 4,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) was eight (8) feet in diameter without secondary containment. It was formerly located immediately west of the northern end of the main facility building. A bermed concrete pad was located immediately above and to the west of the tank. A drain in the east central portion of the pad connected to the tank through a clarifier. The tank received water from cleaning of equipment used to mix baits, pesticides container rinse water, and waste pesticides from the LACDAC pesticide collection program. The tank, the eastern portion of the pad, and the clarifier were removed in September 1992 when an excavation of approximately 30x30 feet was made. The deepest portion of the excavation was approximately 12 feet below ground surface (bgs). The remainder of the clarifier was removed in 1994.
- o 10x10x40 foot storage container van was a lockable, skid mounted, steel storage container where solid-phase pesticides collected from the public were stored. It was located northwest of the main building of the facility adjacent to a former garage. Its permitted storage capacity was 8,250 gallons or an equivalent of 150 drums. This unit was used to store non-liquid pesticides in drums and lab-pack containers. This unit was self contained and also served as a secondary containment for the material in drums and lab-pack containers. Wastes arrived on site during a public collection program. There were no monitoring systems or ancillary equipment associated with this unit. Pesticides had not been stored in this unit for a number of years when it was removed from the site in 2001.

The facility ceased operation in 1992, and began site environmental investigation.

Site Investigation

LACDAC performed site-wide soil and groundwater investigations as part of Closure of the RCRA-permitted units, and closure of the entire facility. Soil samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (semi-VOCs), pesticides, herbicides, strychnine, petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals. Soil investigation data was used to develop a health risk assessment (HRA) which concluded that the facility poses a cancer risk of 1.61×10^{-5} for a hypothetical construction worker and residential use. Dieldrin, a pesticide, is the primary contributor to the risk. In addition, 4,4-dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (4,4-DDT), another pesticide, was also detected at concentrations up to 100 (milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) at 15 feet bgs. The 4,000-gallon UST was the source of both releases.

Arsenic was also detected above background levels at depths of 25-30 feet bgs. near a removed cesspool at the facility.

Three (3) groundwater wells were installed to monitor groundwater quality underlying the facility. Groundwater sampling results indicate that there was no release of other contaminants to groundwater.

Health Risk Assessment

Based on the results of the HRA, the DTSC determined that in order to protect public health and the environment, soil removal is required for the 4,000-gallon UST area contaminated with dieldrin, and 4,4-DDT. As a result, LACDAC submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to modify its Closure Plan to include soil removal of approximately 100 cubic yards for the 4,000-gallon UST.

The DTSC acknowledged and approved the results of the HRA, and is proposing the approval of the following:

- 1) Class 2 Permit Modification request due to the revision of the permit's Closure Plan for the two (2) RCRA units; and
- 2) No Further Action determination for the remainder of the site.

Summary of Proposed Modified Closure Activities

Based on the results of past investigations, additional closure activities will be performed. LACDAC is proposing to excavate less than 100 cubic yards of soil contaminated with dieldrin and 4,4-DDT. The closure cleanup goal is 0.034 mg/kg for dieldrin based on the cancer risk if 1×10^{-6} (one in a million) for residential land use which considers potential ingestion and dermal contact in the upper 10 feet bgs. LACDAC will also use this cleanup goal to remove dieldrin up to 15 feet bgs, and confirmation samples will be taken at the bottom and sidewalls of the excavation. Clean compacted soil purchased from a commercial source will be used to backfill the excavated area.

Water spray will be used to control dust generated, and berms such as sand bags, will be used to control run-on and run-off should significant precipitation occur.

Closure activities will be conducted during working hours, from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to avoid any possible noise pollution to the nearby residents.

The facility is located on a busy major commercial street. However, a temporary increase in truck traffic (5 trucks in 2 days), will not be a concern to the local residents. Truck transportation will be after 9:00 a.m. in consideration of peak morning traffic, and truck transportation will not occur after 3:00 p.m.

Confirmation samples will be taken after the excavation to ensure that the cleanup goal for soil is met. The excavated soil will be containerized and characterized for proper disposal to a Class I facility.

Site access is controlled by a wall and a gate to prohibit the entrance of unauthorized personnel.

The project is expected to take approximately six (6) months to complete and is anticipated to commence in approximately November 2007.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner
Weights and Measures

Exemption Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
 Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
 Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
 Categorical Exemption: [State type and section number]
 Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
 X General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Title 14, Section 15061(b)(3), California Code of Regulations, with certainty, no possibility of significant environmental effect.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The proposed physical closure operations described are minimal and consistent with the parameters of section 15330. The Modified Closure Plan, if approved and implemented, will not result in significant effects to human health and the environment because:

- 1) The Modified Closure Plan proposes minor excavation of less than 100 cubic yards of contaminated soil at the site, and controls for traffic, security, worker safety and health, and air quality are included;
- 2) The proposed modified closure activities had and will utilize DTSC's current methods of risk assessment which will conservatively evaluate the potential risk for soil and groundwater;
- 3) Cumulative non-cancer risks for the construction worker and residents are all below the Hazard Index threshold of 1, indicating that potential exposures are not expected to result in adverse health effects;
- 4) Calculations in the HRA, and determination of the cleanup level were based on a standard scenario that considers potential ingestion and dermal contact in the upper 10 feet only. All soil to a depth of 10 feet impacted by contaminant concentrations that exceed the cleanup level will be excavated;
- 5) The cleanup goal will also be applied for contaminant concentrations to up to 15 feet bgs. and confirmation samples will be taken at the bottom and sidewalls of the excavation;
- 6) Sand and cement slurry will be used to backfill the excavated area;
- 7) The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) database indicates that a 300-gallon underground storage oil tank was removed at the site in 1985. The tank was located at the northeastern portion of the facility, and was used to store weed oil. Analyses of soil samples at the time of tank removal indicated detection of oil and grease in soil at the base of the tank, however, concentrations were below the LARWQCB's screening value for heavy oil.

Analyses of deeper soil samples (below 1-foot bgs.) at the area of the tank during the DTSC's RCRA investigation oversight indicated no detectable concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons;
- 8) Transportation of trucks from the site is restricted to off-peak times so as to impede traffic flow;
- 9) Dust control measures will be implemented at the site;
- 10) Although the site is listed on the Cortese list of Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites, the project will serve to remove a contamination source;
- 11) The site is not located within a scenic highway;
- 12) The site is not located in an area of biological or cultural significance; and
- 13) OSHA and Cal OSHA standards will be met for excavations that exceed six (6) feet. A grading permit will be obtained from the Los Angeles County.

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