

Fact Sheet
March 2005

Department of
Toxic
Substances
Control
(DTSC) is one
of six Boards
and
Departments
within the
California
Environmental
Protection
Agency. The
Department's
mission is to
restore,
protect, and
enhance
environmental
quality and
economic
vitality by
regulating
hazardous
waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing and
promoting
pollution
prevention.



California
Environmental
Protection
Agency



State of
California

Closure of a waste water retention basin at the Long Beach Power Generating Station



Photo of the Wastewater retention basin at the Long Beach Power Generating Station

We invite you to review and comment on a report describing the closure of a hazardous waste treatment and storage basin at the Long Beach Generation, LLC Power Generating Station. The station is located at 2665 West Seaside Blvd. in Long Beach, California.

The report, called the Closure Demonstration Report, describes:

- the investigation of hazardous waste contamination at the retention basin
- the removal of contaminated soil
- an assessment of the risk from the contaminants beneath the basin
- the plan for future use of the site.

Site History

From 1977 to 1990, Southern California Edison (Edison) stored and treated hazardous waste in the retention basin. Waste water from the equipment used to generate power was treated to neutralize the acidity and remove oil residue before it was transferred to the retention basin. The waste water from the basin was

Public Comment Period

March 21, 2005 through
April 20, 2005

Please see page 3 of this fact sheet for information on where to find the Closure Demonstration Report and how to submit comments.

discharged, along with station cooling water, to a channel which connects to the Long Beach Harbor. This discharge is allowed under a permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control. We regulate the creation, storage, treatment, and removal of hazardous waste in California.

History of the basin and reason for the Closure Demonstration Report

The generating station was built in 1927. The retention basin was built and operated by Edison from 1977 to 2000. It is about 130 feet long, 120 feet wide, and 7 feet deep with a center divider wall. In 1998, the station was sold to the Long Beach Generation, LLC company. In 2000, NRG El Segundo Operations, Inc. took over operations of the generating station from Edison.

In 1995 our agency filed a complaint against Edison for treating and storing hazardous waste in a retention basin without a permit, and for failing to identify the hazardous chemicals in the waste. The hazardous waste water contained chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and metals such as nickel and arsenic.

In February 1995, an agreement signed by Edison and our agency was filed in the Superior Court of Los Angeles to settle the complaint. Edison agreed to find out if any chemicals from the waste water may have been released to air, soil, surface water, and ground water; clean up any contamination; and stop using the retention basin to treat and store hazardous waste in the future.

To do this, Edison prepared a Closure Demonstration Report. This report includes:

- the investigation (closure) plan to determine if the basin released any contamination from past activities;
- the results of the investigation;
- an assessment of the risk to people, the environment, and ecological receptors;
- the activities performed to protect human health, the environment, and ecological receptors.

Please note that because the basin is and will continue to be used by the Long Beach Generation, LLC for storage of **non-hazardous** waste water from the generating station, the term "closure" refers to the end of the hazardous waste treatment and storage operations.

Investigation of the soil and groundwater beneath the basin

Beginning in 1996, Edison investigated the ground water and soil beneath the site. The information from the five years of groundwater monitoring and the soil investigation is described in the report and used to evaluate if releases from the basin occurred. The unit includes the basin and the attached piping.

The report shows that there is metal contamination in the soil just below the basin liners and in an area along the piping near the water neutralization system. However, no releases of contamination from the basin were found in the groundwater. Approximately 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed along the piping near the water neutralization system. This contaminated area was about 20 feet in length, 25 feet in width, and two to three feet deep. The metals remaining beneath the basin and attached piping are considered to be immobile. Groundwater monitoring will continue until the closure of the basin is approved to confirm that these metals have not impacted the quality of the ground water.

After the investigation was completed, a study called a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment was performed. This study looked at whether the contamination at the site poses a risk to human health, the environment, and ecological receptors.

Results of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment show that there is no significant risk to on-site workers who might come in contact with the soil during maintenance or construction or ecological receptors. Because the site was not evaluated for residential uses such as houses, day care centers, or hospitals, the land use must remain industrial only.

The property will be restricted to industrial use only

To make sure the land use remains industrial, a land use covenant will be recorded with the deed of the property. We will inspect the site annually to make sure that the terms of the land use restriction are being met.

Environmental impact of the closure

Our agency did a study to find out whether the closure of the hazardous waste storage operation would harm the environment. This study is required by the California Environmental Quality Act and found that the closure would not have a significant effect on the environment. This finding is described in a document called a Notice of Exemption, which is available at the locations listed below.

Where to find the documents

Copies of the Closure Demonstration Report, Notice of Exemption, and other documents related to the site are available at the Long Beach Public Library at 101 Pacific Avenue in Long Beach, (562) 570-7500.

We also have this information at our agency's office at 1011 Grandview Avenue in Glendale. Please call Ms. Jone Barrio in the File Room at (818) 551-2952 to make an appointment. File Room hours are 8 am to 4 pm. Monday through Friday.

How to submit comments

Written comments on the Closure Demonstration Report must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 20, 2005 and sent to Penny Nakashima, Project Manager, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. Email: pnakashi@dtsc.ca.gov

Who to contact for more information

If you have questions regarding this site, please contact either of these people at our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control:

Penny Nakashima, Project Manager
(818) 551-2900
Email: pnakashi@dtsc.ca.gov

Leticia Hernandez, Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5488
Email: lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquires

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

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Leticia Hernández al número (714) 484-5488.

For more information about DTSC or to view this fact sheet online, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

