



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control 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, February 2010

DTSC Approves Environmental Investigation at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, Space Park Facility in Redondo Beach

Results of an environmental investigation at the Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems (NGAS) Space Park Facility (Site) are available for public review. The investigation, conducted over the course of several years at the Site, located at One Space Park in the city of Redondo Beach, revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil and soil gas. Although the VOC contamination is localized and does not extend beyond the Site, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires that NGAS either cleanup the contamination or put measures in place that limit future use of the Site.

DTSC, a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. DTSC also oversees environmental investigations at facilities such as the NGAS Space Park Facility. If contamination is found during environmental investigations, DTSC then oversees cleanup of these facilities.

In December 2009, DTSC approved the final environmental investigation report for areas of the Site regulated by DTSC. The report is available for public review at locations listed on page 2 of this fact sheet.

History and Operations at the Site

The Site is located in an area zoned for commercial and industrial use. NGAS operates an active facility at the Site where it performs spacecraft, electronics, and communications manufacturing and research.

The Site was originally developed by TRW Inc. (TRW) during the 1960s and has been used for research and testing, engineering, and manufacturing of spacecraft, electronics, and other aerospace systems. In the early 1980s, TRW was authorized by a permit to manage hazardous waste; this permit authorization ended in 1997. In 2002, TRW became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corporation, as an operating sector currently known as NGAS.

Investigation Overview

NGAS has worked with DTSC since acquiring the site to ensure that requirements associated with the closed TRW permit are satisfied. DTSC has been overseeing environmental investigations at the Site in accordance with a Corrective Action Consent Agreement (Consent Agreement) with NGAS dated August 2002.

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573



NGAS's predecessor, TRW, had a permit to store hazardous waste at the Site including waste solvents containing VOCs. The permit and Consent Agreement require that TRW investigate areas at the Site where hazardous waste and hazardous materials were managed in the past; these areas are called Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). The purpose of the environmental investigation was to determine if hazardous materials were released from the SWMUs and if so whether they pose an unacceptable risk to current or potential future occupants of the Site.

The scope of the investigation did not include groundwater; the investigation and cleanup of groundwater at the site is performed under the oversight of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Conclusions

Based on the investigation results, the four SWMUs covered by the Consent Agreement were deemed to be adequately characterized and delineated. The investigation revealed that contaminants including VOCs were released at the Site. Contamination was detected in soil and soil gas. The contaminated SWMUs are located in the north east and south east quadrants of the Site; the contamination is localized and does not extend off-Site.

A human health risk assessment was performed to determine if the contamination poses a risk to current or potential future occupants at the Site. The results of the risk assessment confirmed that the contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to the current commercial/industrial worker receptor groups. The risk assessment also found that a portion of the Site associated with two SWMUs is potentially not suitable for residential purposes. It should be noted that the current and foreseeable future intended Site use is commercial/industrial, and therefore there is currently no unacceptable health risk to Site occupants. Furthermore, there is no risk to human health or the environment off-Site from the localized contaminated areas identified on-Site.

Next Steps

Because contamination was found that could present a risk if portions of the Site were redeveloped for residential purposes, NGAS will

complete a Corrective Measure Study (CMS) and prepare a CMS report. The CMS will evaluate remedy options to either cleanup the contamination or put in place controls to ensure that the Site cannot be redeveloped for residential purposes. Following completion of the CMS report, DTSC will announce a public comment period to solicit comments on the proposed remedy. Information regarding the public comment period and proposed remedy will be contained in a public notice and fact sheet to be released in mid-2010.

Where to Find Site Documents

The investigation report and other project documents for this Site are available for review at the following locations:

Redondo Beach Public Library
303 North Pacific Coast Hwy
Redondo Beach, California 90277

The investigation report is also available on the DTSC Web site at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=80001557. Once there you may read, review, or download and print the report.

Who to contact for more information

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Select option #3, and option #3 a second time

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Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

You may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Ms. Cynthia Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist.



Aerial view of the Space Park Facility. The locations of two Solid Waste Management Units where contaminants were found, SWMU 16 and SWMU 19, are indicated.