

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED INTERIM MEASURE WORKPLAN AND REVISED POND 1 CLOSURE PLAN PHIBRO-TECH, INC. SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites your comments on the Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan and Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan for Phibro Tech, Inc. (PTI) a permitted hazardous waste Facility, located at 8851 Dice Road in Santa Fe Springs, California 90670. If approved, the Interim Measure and Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan would require PTI to implement the following corrective action and pond closure activities:

- The Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan will require PTI to clean up hexavalent chromium in soil near a former underground chromic acid tank. The clean up involves injection of chemicals into the ground to reduce the hexavalent chromium to acceptable levels.
- The Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan updates a previously approved Closure Plan for a former surface impoundment (known as Pond 1). Pond 1 is currently used as secondary containment for two wastewater treatment tanks (W1, W2). The Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan requires PTI to remove the two wastewater treatment tanks (W1, W2), the pond structure, and two adjacent wastewater treatment tanks (W3, W4). PTI must then test the underlying soil and clean up any discovered contamination.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? DTSC will accept written public comments on the Interim Measure Work Plan and Revised Pond 1 Closure plan during the public comment period starting December 15, 2015 to February 15, 2016.

Please send written comments by February 15, 2016 to: Stephen Baxter, Project Manager, 9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, California 91311.

Members of the public may submit oral or written comments during a Public Hearing scheduled for January 28, 2016, starting at 6:00 P.M., to be held at the Los Nietos Middle School, 11425 East Rivera Road, Whittier, California 90606.

Public Comment Period



**December 15 to
February 15, 2016**

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FACILITY DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The PTI hazardous waste facility is located at 8851 Dice Road, Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, California 90670 (Facility). PTI receives inorganic hazardous waste from off-site generators and treats the waste at the Facility to reclaim metals and inorganic chemicals. PTI treats inorganic hazardous waste pursuant to a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issued by DTSC in 1991. The Hazardous Waste Permit expired on July 29, 1996. By operation of law, PTI may continue to operate under the terms of the 1991 Permit until DTSC makes a decision on the permit application. PTI reclaims materials for reuse from inorganic hazardous wastes such as etchants, metal slurries, and corrosive wastes. PTI also manufactures etchants and other chemical products from non-waste (virgin) materials in a separate portion of the Facility. The Facility operates on 4.8 acres within an industrial-zoned land use area of the City of Santa Fe Springs, and is bounded on all sides by various commercial and industrial facilities. Residential areas are located to the north and west of the PTI Facility. The nearest residences are located approximately 550 feet (0.1 mile) to the northwest of PTI. The residential area to the north and west of PTI is known as the Los Nietos community, an unincorporated community of Los Angeles County, which is part of West Whittier and Santa Fe Springs.

THE PROPOSED INTERIM MEASURE WORK PLAN

DTSC required PTI to submit an Interim Measure Work Plan to remediate hexavalent chromium in soils at the Facility. The Interim Measure Work Plan describes how hexavalent chromium will be remediated in soils and how the soil clean up will be verified. DTSC reviewed the Interim Measure Work Plan, which proposes treatment of hexavalent chromium in soil with injections of calcium polysulfide (CPS) solutions near the location of the former underground chromic acid tank. The proposed interim measure address a portion

of the hexavalent chromium mass present in soil below the facility that is a potential threat to groundwater. Information indicates that hexavalent chromium has been released into soil from two potential sources: 1) a former underground chromic acid tank, which was removed from the property around 1979; and 2) Pond 1, which has not been used as an active hazardous waste management unit since 1985. The hexavalent chromium does not present a measurable health risk and the public is not exposed to hexavalent chromium present underground. Additionally, the contaminated groundwater is not being used for drinking water. However, since the hexavalent chromium contamination has migrated to soil and groundwater above health based levels, the interim measure are necessary to eliminate future impacts to groundwater and to help control threats to the groundwater while DTSC is evaluating proposed long-term clean up alternatives.

The interim measure work plan proposes injecting CPS in 25 borings located 15-feet apart. Injection rods will be pushed into the ground to the proposed target depths. The injection rod will be retracted to expose the five, two, or one-foot injection interval. The injection zones identified for clean up includes the following units and depths:

- The unsaturated artificial fill soils and silty sand and sand of the Gage Aquifer, extending from depths of about 10 to 30 feet below the ground surface (bgs);
 - The silt and clay of the unnamed aquitard, extending from about 30 to 50 feet bgs; and
 - The currently unsaturated sands of the Hollydale Aquifer, extending from about 50 to 55 feet.
- Once the injection in the first treatment zone is complete, the rod will be advanced to the next treatment interval. The CPS injection will continue until the whole zone being targeted for treatment in this step-wise, top to bottom fashion is complete. After injection the borings will be grouted with neat cement and bentonite.



A surface seal will be installed at the top to prevent infiltration of potential surface liquids. To determine how effective the clean up is, soil samples will be collected, visually examined and chemically tested. The soil samples will be collected no later than three-days following the injection so that the CPS is allowed to fully absorb into the surrounding soils. The results from the visual and chemical analysis will be used to make boring location adjustments for the remaining injection borings. To confirm the injection process is complete, additional borings are proposed at select locations to determine the extent of the injection fluids and the reduction of the hexavalent chromium. Soil samples will be submitted for lab analysis of volatile organic compounds and metals (including hexavalent chromium).

In 2012, PTI implemented a Pilot Study to study the effectiveness of CPS to remediate hexavalent chromium at the facility. The CPS injection targeted distinct layers of soil below the surface including the artificial fill, the unsaturated Gage Aquifer, the unnamed aquitard, and the upper portion of the Hollydale Aquifer that is currently dry due to the drought. The Pilot Test found the injection of CPS into the soil was effective in changing the toxic and mobile hexavalent chromium to the nontoxic, immobile trivalent chromium. Los Angeles Regional California Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), Waste Discharge Requirement permit was obtained for the Pilot Test injections. DTSC will oversee clean up activities to ensure that they are performed in a protective manner that does not harm people or the environment.

THE REVISED CLOSURE PLAN FOR POND 1

A revised Pond 1 Closure Plan is available for public review and comment. The Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan updates the Pond 1 Closure Plan, approved by DTSC and U.S. EPA in 1988. The Revised Pond 1 Closure plan proposes new and revised details on how Pond

1 will be closed and how any contamination will be detected and cleaned up if found.

Pond 1 was used to process facility wastewater between 1975 and 1985. The wastewater primarily contained inorganic constituents such as ammonia, lead, zinc, cadmium, copper, chromium, iron, nickel and arsenic. It was identified as an interim status unit in the Interim Status Document issued in September 1980 (effective December 1980) to Southern California Chemical Company (the previous owner of the facility). Pond 1 is a suspected source of groundwater and soil contamination at the Facility. In 1988, Department of Health Services (now DTSC) and U.S. EPA approved a modified Pond 1 Closure Plan. However, the 1988 Pond 1 Closure plan contained many deficiencies and could not be implemented without substantial revisions. In 2012, DTSC required PTI to submit a revised Pond 1 Closure plan that provided details on how PTI would close Pond 1 and address any groundwater and soil contamination if found. Closure activities include the removal of wastewater treatment tanks, removal of the pond structure, removal of underlying soils and verification testing of underlying soils. Additionally, the Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan includes groundwater monitoring requirements, a contingent post-closure plan, and in-situ soil treatment for contamination. The removal and clean up would involve excavation of the top 10 feet of soil and treatment of the deeper soil using the same process as proposed by the interim measure.

PTI'S CLASS 2 PERMIT MODIFICATION

DTSC anticipates that PTI will submit a Class 2 Permit modification, requesting authorization to install replacement equipment, including four hazardous waste tanks, necessary to continue facility operations while implementing required closure activities. PTI will print a public notice to announce the 60 day comment period and hold a public meeting. DTSC will consider and respond to the comments received during the public comment period.



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT RENEWAL

PTI has submitted a permit application to renew its hazardous waste facility permit. DTSC is currently reviewing the permit application and has not made a decision on the revised permit application. DTSC's proposed decision will be made available for public review and comment at a later date.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has evaluated whether the proposed interim measure or revised closure plan may have any significant impacts on human health and the environment. As part of this evaluation pursuant to CEQA, DTSC has prepared an addendum to the previously adopted Negative Declaration.

THE RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

After the public comment period concludes, DTSC will consider all comments prior to making a final decision on the Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan and Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan. DTSC will issue a response to comments document which will be made available to the public. This notice will describe the procedures for appealing DTSC's decision.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

The Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan, Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan, the Addendum to the Negative Declaration, and other related documents may be viewed at the information repositories and the DTSC website listed below:

Santa Fe Springs Library
11700 Telegraph Rd.

Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 868-7738

Santa Fe Springs Neighborhood Center
9255 So. Pioneer Blvd.
Santa Fe Springs, CA
(562) 692-0261

You may also visit the DTSC website at:

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov>

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The administrative record, including the Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan, Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan, fact sheets, the addendum, and related documents may be viewed by appointment between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at the location shown below. All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record.

DTSC Regional Records Office
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311
Call (818) 717-6521 for an appointment

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following individuals can be contacted with for information regarding the Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan, or the Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan and to obtain further information, including a copy of the Proposed Interim Measure Work Plan, Revised Pond 1 Closure Plan, fact sheets and the addendum to the Negative Declaration.

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