



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.*



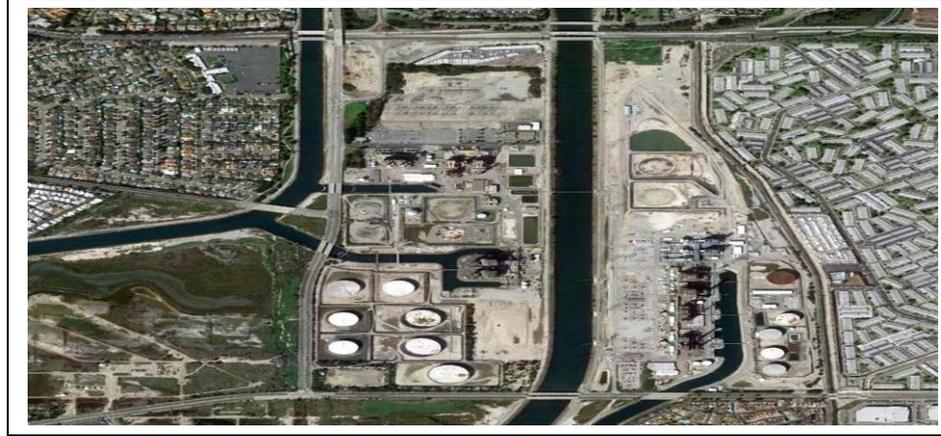
State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, February 2012

Closure Plan Available for Public Comment for Closure of Retention Basins at Alamitos Generating Station



Aerial View of Retention Basins at Alamitos Generating Station

A proposed plan to close four Retention Basins at the Los Alamitos Generating Station is available for public review and comment. The proposed plan, called a Closure Plan, submitted by Southern California Edison (Edison) to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), details the regulated closure of wastewater retention basins and associated pipelines and is now available for review and public comment. This draft Closure Plan includes the investigation conducted and assessment of contamination related to past operations of the retention basins and ensures that the environmental systems currently in place continue to be effective in protecting human health and the environment.

This Fact Sheet provides information on:

- Description and History of the Retention Basins
- Investigations of the Basins and Associated Pipelines
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- How You Can Participate
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact at DTSC for More Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

February 2, 2012 to March 2, 2012

The draft Closure Plan is available for review and public comment. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than March 2, 2012, and sent to:**

Steve Rounds, DTSC Project Manager,
9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, CA, 91311
E-mail: srounds@dtsc.ca.gov

The draft Closure Plan and CEQA Notice of Exemption are available for review at the repositories listed on page 3 of this Fact Sheet. A public meeting is not scheduled for this project, however, if you feel one is warranted, you can request a meeting by contacting Zenzi Poindexter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll free at 1(866) 495-5651, press 3 then 4 or by e-mail to : upoindex@dtsc.ca.gov. In your request, please indicate the reason(s) for the request and DTSC will evaluate if a meeting or hearing is warranted.

Para información en español por favor contacte a Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-65733



Description and History of the Retention Basins

The Alamitos Generating Station is about 86 acres in size, and located 1.5 miles north of the Long Beach Marina, between the Los Cerritos Channel and the San Gabriel River, in Long Beach. There are three wastewater retention basins (retention basins) and a Boiler chemical Cleaning Basin (BCCB) at the site. The retention basins and BCCB are open, above grade level and located along the east side of the site. From north to south, they are designated as the: 1) North Basin; 2) Central Basin; 3) BCCB, and; 4) South Basin. The retention basins and BCCB will not be removed as part of the closure because they must remain in use, to support on-going operation of the generating station.

Edison built, owned and operated the generating station from the mid-1950s until it was sold in 1998 to AES Alamitos LLC. The Alamitos site has a total of six electrical generation units, located in pairs, across the property. Units 1 and 2, and Units 3 and 4, are located on the north side of the site. Units 5 and 6 are located on the south side of the property. The retention basins have historically been used to store wastewater that may contain oil, grease, and suspended solids from day-to-day plant operation. In the past, metals and acidic solutions from boiler cleaning were temporarily stored in the Central Basin and BCCB while being neutralized and treated to remove the metals (which were then transported offsite for lawful disposal). The wastewater from day-to-day operations was, and is currently discharged to the ocean under the provisions of a National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The temporary storage of acidic solutions containing metals was discontinued in the mid-1990s. According to Edison, these liquids were never discharged to the ocean. Edison retains responsibility under the contract of sale for environmental liability associated with the Facility's past operation of the retention basins.

Investigation of the Basins and Associated Pipelines

In 1996, under DTSC oversight, Edison began investigation of soil and groundwater beneath the basins. Our agency provided oversight for five soil investigations and on-going groundwater quality monitoring conducted at the site between 1995 and the present.

The soil sampling program to date has focused on assessing the basin areas. Proposed soil investigations will focus on the pipelines leading to the retention basins. The site investigations and on-going monitoring indicate the presence of localized heavy metals, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and a Semi-Volatile Organic Compound (SVOC) in soil and groundwater beneath the retention basins.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review

DTSC conducted a study to find out whether the closure of the retention basins would harm the environment as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on this study, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the closure of the retention basins and associated pipelines will not have a significant negative impact on human health and the environment.

How You Can Participate

DTSC encourages interested community members to review the documents and submit comments during the public comment period which begins **February 2, 2012 and ends March 2, 2012**. The draft documents are available at the repositories listed in this Fact Sheet on page 3. The Administrative Record for this facility, including the facility's environmental compliance record is available at the DTSC office in Chatsworth. Written public comments on the draft Closure Plan must be post-marked or e-mailed no later than **March 2, 2012** and sent to: Steve Rounds, DTSC Project Manager, at 9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth CA 91311- or by e-mail to: srounds@dtsc.ca.gov

Next Steps

Before making a final decision, DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received during the public comment period. A copy of DTSC's Response to Comments document will be sent to all those who submit a public comment.

Where to Find Site Documents

The draft Closure Plan and other site-related documents are available for public review at the information repositories listed here. The administrative record, including the draft CEQA NOE is also available at the DTSC Office in Chatsworth.

Bay Shore Neighborhood Library
195 Bay Shore Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Phone: (562) 570-1039

Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Hours:

Mondays-Fridays: 8am to 5pm
Please call (818) 717-6521 for an appointment.

To view electronic versions of the draft Closure Plan, draft NOE and other related documents, please visit DTSC's EnviroStor website:
<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Enter Long Beach as the City and select Alamitos Generating Station. Click on the link "Report" then "Community Involvement".

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project, draft RAW, CEQA draft Negative Declaration or other project related activities, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Steve Rounds, Project Manager
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 717-6602
E-mail: srounds@dtsc.ca.gov

Zenzi Poindexter, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5477 or toll-free 1(866) 495-5651,
Press 4 then 6.
E-mail: upoindex@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 717-6573
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Zenzi Poindexter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5477.