



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## Fact Sheet, September 2006

### United Technologies Corporation. Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne 600 Metcalf Road, San Jose (EPA ID: CAD001705235)

#### DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY POST-CLOSURE PERMIT

#### Introduction

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to provide information to the public on a draft Hazardous Waste **Post-Closure Permit**. The permit applies to three former **surface impoundments** at the United Technologies facility located at 600 Metcalf Road, San Jose, California. Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and perchlorates as a result of past releases from these units.

This Post-Closure permit is required by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and by the State Health and Safety Code. These statutes require that all facilities that can not remove all contamination during closure must obtain a post-closure permit. This post-closure permit would require UTC to continue to remediate groundwater. In addition, UTC must monitor groundwater until cleanup objectives are met. The proposed Post Closure Permit would be effective for ten years from the date of issuance. (Items in bold are defined on page 4. The draft documents are available for public review. See locations listed on page 3 of this fact sheet.)

#### Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

DTSC will hold a 45-day public comment period on the draft Post-Closure Permit and draft Negative Declaration for United Technologies Corp from September 28, 2006 through November 13, 2006. A public hearing will be held on November 2, 2006 at 6:30 pm at the Vineland Branch Library in San Jose (see back page for address).

DTSC encourages all interested parties to comment. Before making a final determination DTSC will review and respond to public comments in writing. Mail or e-mail comments by November 13, 2006 to:

Andrew Berna-Hicks  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94704  
E-mail—[abernahi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:abernahi@dtsc.ca.gov)



## Facility Description

United Technologies Corporation (UTC), Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion currently occupies approximately 5,113 acres in the Santa Clara foothills. UTC is approximately 14 miles southeast of downtown San Jose. The area is rural and land use around the site includes animal grazing and parkland.

Operations at UTC have previously included manufacturing and testing of solid rocket motors. A major part of the manufacturing process was the mixing, casting, and curing of solid fuel rocket motor propellants. Hazardous waste was generated primarily from manufacturing, and research activities.

In 2004, UTC shut down all manufacturing operations and is proceeding with closure of the entire facility.

## Post Closure Permit Description

The Post-Closure Permit covers three former hazardous waste storage and treatment units. The units addressed in the Post-Closure Permit are three former **surface impoundments** (Unit Nos. : 0250, 0635 and 0706). Surface Impoundment 0250 was used for the storage of liquid wastes resulting from metal finishing. Surface Impoundment 0635 was used for the storage of liquid wastes resulting from polymer production. Surface Impoundment 0706 was used for the storage of liquid wastes from container washing.

The Post-Closure Permit will require the continuation of on-going **pumping and treatment of groundwater**. In addition, the Permit will require monitoring of groundwater until cleanup objectives are met. All contaminated soil under and around the three surface impoundments has been removed.

A more detailed description of post closure permit requirements and DTSC's rationale for issuance of this permit can be found in the Statement of Basis. To access the Statement of Basis, see Information Repositories on the next page.

## Land Use and Environmental Setting

Land Use - Land to the northeast and southeast of the UTC site is ranchland used for grazing. To the northwest is a regional park and open public land. Directly to the west is additional regional park land. Exceptions to the agricultural use are the Motorcycle Park and public lands to the northwest. The nearest residences are a few ranch houses or other dwellings located approximately 3000 feet to the north, northeast and southeast of the UTC property boundaries.

Surface Water: Four creeks run through the UTC property. These creeks are Shingle Creek, Mixer Creek, San Felipe Creek, and Las Animas Creek. Run-off from the facility runs south and empties into Anderson Reservoir which is approximately one-half mile south of the facility. Anderson Reservoir is a municipal and domestic water supply source for Santa Clara County. Based upon available information to date, DTSC has no evidence to suggest that perchlorate or other contaminants of concern from the three former hazardous waste surface impoundments have impacted surface water beyond facility boundaries.

Groundwater: Contaminants of concern in groundwater includes VOCs and perchlorate. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is the lead agency overseeing the site-wide cleanup. The Department of Toxic Substances Control has a regulatory role that is limited to the closure of hazardous waste storage and treatment units at this facility. Under an order from RWQCB and with oversight by DTSC, contaminated groundwater associated with the three surface impoundments is being **extracted and treated** to remove contaminants.

## Permitting History

The UTC facility began operations in 1959. UTC was issued a RCRA Interim Status Document in 1981 to operate the three surface impoundments. A final permit to operate the impoundments was issued in 1983. Closure of the three surface impoundments began in 1985 and was completed in 1991. Closure was not «clean» because the impoundments may have impacted groundwater.

This could not be definitely determined due other nearby operations which have contaminated the groundwater. All soils with contaminants above the approved cleanup levels were removed, however. Because the impoundments may have impacted groundwater, and it can not be proven without question that they did not, a post-closure permit is required.

### **Compliance History**

The UTC facility is inspected on average once every two years by DTSC. The facility was sited for one minor financial assurance violation in both 2002 and 2004. The last inspection was completed in April of 2006. One minor record keeping violation and one minor financial assurance violation were sited in 2006.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

DTSC is the Lead Agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project. DTSC has prepared an Initial Study and concluded that the proposed project will not have any significant effects on the environment. A draft Negative Declaration, as well as the Initial Study is available for public review and comment (see back page). A CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse after DTSC makes a final decision on the post-closure permit in consideration of public comments received.

### **Post Closure Permit**

The post-closure permit application being considered for approval is dated September 2006. This application, if approved, becomes part of the permit by reference. This application gives details for the inspection and maintenance of all equipment associated with groundwater monitoring and treatment. In addition, the Operation Plan outlines emergency procedures and names emergency coordinators.

The proposed Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit will be valid for ten years, and then requires renewal. The process of renewal continues every ten years, until the groundwater at the three former surface impoundments meets the cleanup goals set in the permit.

### **For More Information**

If you would like more information about this UTC draft Post-Closure Permit, permit application, or CEQA Initial Study / draft Negative Declaration, please call:

Andrew Berna-Hicks, Project Office at (510) 540-3956 or

Randy Sturgeon, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3649

For media questions, call Angela Blanchette, DTSC Media Officer, at (510) 540-3732.

### **Information Repositories**

The draft Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit, Post-Closure Permit Application, Statement of Basis, and CEQA Initial Study/ Negative Declaration, are available for public review at the following location:

San Jose Public Library, Vineland Branch  
1450 Blossom Hill Road  
San Jose, CA  
(408) 808-3000

In addition, these documents may be accessed online at DTSC's website: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UnitedTechnologies.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UnitedTechnologies.cfm).

The full Administrative Record for this site is available for public review at the following location:

DTSC File Room, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA (510) 540-3800

## Glossary

1. **CEQA-California Environmental Quality Act.** Requires that a study be done on a project to determine whether it will have any adverse impact on the environment.
2. **Hazardous Waste-** Solid, liquid, or gaseous wastes which pose a potential threat to public health or the environment and are known to be ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and / or toxic.
3. **Post-Closure Permit-** A permit, issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, required when a facility leaves hazardous waste at the location of a previously permitted unit. This Permit generally requires the cleanup and/or containment of the contamination, as well as continued environmental monitoring. The Post-Closure permit is renewed every ten years, and this process continues until the facility adequately demonstrates removal of the contamination.
4. **Surface Impoundments-** Open air ponds, unlined or lined with impermeable synthetic liners, used to accumulate liquid wastes.
5. **Groundwater pumping and treatment:** A method of remediating subsurface water by pumping it out of the ground using extraction wells and treating it by chemical or mechanical means to remove contamination.

### Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315.

### Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and for Mr. Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649.

### *ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?*

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail this form back to Randy Sturgeon, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Please print name and address clearly.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Comment:

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.