



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

PRESS RELEASE

T – 15 – 08
Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8-18-2008

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL APPROVES CLOSURE PLAN FOR ROMIC

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has approved the plan to decontaminate and disassemble the hazardous waste process structures at the former Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation in East Palo Alto. DTSC ordered the commercial hazardous waste storage and treatment facility closed in August 2007 because of its inability to operate safely and violations of its hazardous waste permits. Approving this closure plan is the first step in returning the property on the San Francisco Bay shoreline to productive use.

“This is a huge milestone in DTSC’s efforts to protect public health and the environment in East Palo Alto,” DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen said. “Once DTSC concluded that Romic could not operate its facility safely and ordered its operations shut down, our next priority was to return that property to productive use. Our scientists and engineers scrutinized the plans for closure to verify that every task involved was appropriately protective and would lead to successful dismantling of the facility,” Gorsen added.

Romic began receiving hazardous waste for storage, treatment, and recycling operations in 1963 at the facility at 2081 Bay Rd., in East Palo Alto. The hazardous waste included paint thinner, antifreeze, and discarded paints and oils. In August 2007, DTSC ordered Romic to close the permitted facility because of a history of violations and accidents. Romic’s compliance history has also raised public concerns from various members of the community. Romic ceased accepting waste in August 2007 and removed all stored hazardous wastes from the site by the end of October 2007.

DTSC is responsible for overseeing Romic and its contractors during the first phase of facility closure, which will take one year. The primary goal of this phase is to safely decontaminate and remove all above-ground structures and equipment used for hazardous waste in compliance with regulations. The plan follows distinct contamination standards for equipment planned for resale; equipment planned for scrap; equipment planned for non-hazardous waste disposal; and equipment planned for hazardous waste disposal.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will lead the second phase, which targets investigation of any contamination in the soil and groundwater and related cleanup.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

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.