



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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EXCAVATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE COMPLETED AT IT PANOCHÉ DRUM BURIAL AREA FIVE

Berkeley -- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the completion of a three month effort to remove approximately 4,000 drums and containers of hazardous waste from the IT Panoche Facility's Drum Burial Area Five (DBA-V). The excavation was part of an effort to provide enhanced environmental protection and prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating to nearby Paddy Creek.

"The completion of the drum removal and excavation removes the source of the groundwater contamination plume," said Jesse Huff, DTSC Director. "Now, we can focus more attention on treating the plume before it migrates to Paddy Creek and poses a threat to groundwater and the community."

DBA-V includes an area that is approximately 4 acres, and is located in the northwest corner of the 200 acre facility.

An estimated 4,000 drums of liquid and solid hazardous waste were buried in DBA-V between 1977 and 1981 including organic phosphates, parathion, methyl bromide and other pesticides, manufacturing sludges and residues from a broad range of industrial processes, asbestos, discarded transformers containing PCBs, acids, chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents, herbicides and fungicides.

Under DTSC oversight, over a three month period, eight trenches were excavated, allowing the removal of containers and drums were removed from DBA-V. Liquefied wastes and materials were solidified, taken to another portion of the IT facility, decontaminated and re-buried.

The facility, located at 2251 Lake Herman Road in Benecia began receiving hazardous waste in 1968, when it opened as the J & J Disposal Company. IT purchased the site in 1975 and continued land disposal operations until 1986. During its 18-year operation, the facility received 80,000 to 200,000 tons of hazardous waste per year.

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