Fact Sheet
April 2004

Public Comment Period
on the Expansion of the
Oakdale High School

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

739 West "G" Street - Oakdale. California

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California

California Environmental Protection Agency

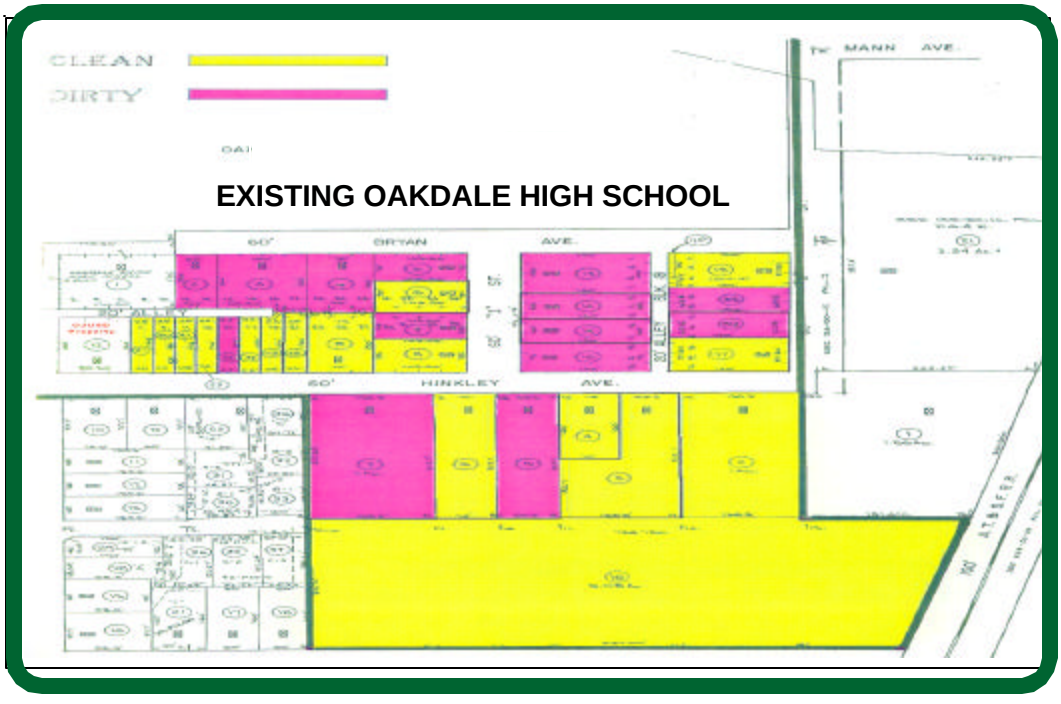
Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and the California Environmental Quality Act, Notice of Exemption (NOE). Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period which begins on Wednesday, **April14, 2004** and end on Thursday, **May 13, 2004**. All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, **May 13, 2004**. Emailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date.

Mail written comments to:

DTSC
Ms. Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
or via email at ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov

If you have any questions or require additional information concerning this fact sheet, please call Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651.



This fact sheet will provide you:

- Overall site history and background
- What was found at the site
- What is a Draft RAW (Proposed cleanup remedy)
  What will you see during the cleanup
- California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Future activities

Overall site history and background

The Oakdale High School proposes to modernize and enlarge its campus. The property consists of 32 parcels encompassing a total of approximately 14 acres located southwest of the existing Oakdale High School, which is located at 739 West "G" Street in Oakdale, California.

Except for agricultural activities, no business or manufacturing activities were used or generated hazardous substances/wastes are known or suspected to have occurred at the Site. Hazardous substances known or suspected to have been used at the Site comprise of lead-based paint, agricultural and household pesticides, household chemicals, and other environmental conditions.

What was found at the site?

Sampling was conducted between April and August 2003, which detected elevated levels of **arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, chlordane, and PAH's**. These levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. DTSC recommends a removal action be performed prior to converting the Site into part of the existing Oakdale High School campus.

Chemical of Concern	Elevated Levels	DTSC Cleanup Requirement
Arsenic	10.4 ppm	1.0 ppm
Cadmium	29.2 ppm	1.5 ppm
Copper	1,570 ppm	1,000 ppm
Lead	3,040 ppm	255 ppm
Chlordane	25.6 ppm	0.30 ppm
PAH's	0.310 ppm	0.022 ppm

What is a Removal Action Workplan? (Proposed Cleanup Activities)

A RAW has been prepared by a State-approved contractor, URS Corporation, on behalf of the Oakland Unified School District. The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to propose a removal action to prevent, minimize, or mitigate potential damage to public health and/or the environment. The Draft RAW also summarizes previous studies, outlines available removal alternatives, and proposes a removal option.

The removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. Based on this screening, four possible alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action
Alternative 2 – Treatment
Alternative 3 – Institutional Control and On-Site Containment (Capping)
Alternative 4 – Digging up the contaminated soil and taken away to licensed disposal facility.

Alternative 4 – Digging up the contaminated soil and taken away to licensed disposal facility has been chosen as the preferred cleanup alternative. This alternative was selected because it was determined to be the most protective of the human health and environment, easily implemented and cost effective.

The OJUSD submitted a Removal Action Workplan to DTSC proposing the following cleanup activities:

- Dig up approximately 1,400 cubic yards or about 120 truckloads of contaminated soil and bringing in clean soil to back fill.
- The contaminated soil will be taken away from the site will be transported by a trucking contractor, who is properly licensed to handle the material.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the Draft RAW, it is being made available to you for a 30- day public review and comment period.

What will I see during the cleanup?

You may see contractors digging up the contaminated soil on the site. Construction equipment, such as front-end loaders equipped with a backhoe being used. The contaminated soil will be temporarily stored onsite and covered. The soil will be loaded onto transport trucks. This soil will be taken away to a licensed disposal facility. The soil removal activities are expected to begin around July 2004, and end by the beginning of September 2004.

Fencing

The areas where the digging will occur will be secured using existing fencing where possible and temporary fencing or barriers so that unauthorized personnel do not enter the work area.

Truck Route

It is anticipated that about 120 truckloads will be needed to haul the soil from the site.

Trucks hauling the soil will exit the Site:

- Northward on South Hinkley Avenue and travel east thought West “G” Street,
- North through S. Bryan Avenue,
- East on Highway 108, and
- North, later west, on Highway 120 to Route 99, and thereafter to
- Interstate 5.

Traffic control measures, such as flagmen, will be used during off-site soil transportation. The landfill is located in Kettleman City, Kings County, California.

Dust Suppression

The soil is dug in a manner that reduces dust. Water is sprayed on the areas where there is digging throughout the cleanup process. Additionally, trucks are equipped with tarps to cover the soil after it has been loaded, so that soil won’t spill out of the trucks while they are on the road. Airborne dust monitoring is conducted to verify and document dust suppression efforts.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment or human health because of the relatively small volume, short duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken away for disposal.

Future Activities

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination to either accept or deny the Draft RAW. Anyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document icludes all received comments pretaining to the Draft RAW, removal activities and NOE during the comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of "The Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repositories listed below, which have been established for the site.

After the removal, confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all soils containing elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, chlordane, and PAH's have been properly removed, and the Site is safe for occupancy as a school.

In addition to this fact sheet a work notice will be provided to you prior to commencement of construction.

For More Information

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals throughout the life of the project with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact Ms. Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6527.

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651.

For media questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 324-0936.

Where can I find the documents for review?

The Draft RAW and NOE can be reviewed at the following Information Repositories:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
Ms. Kamili Siglowide, Project Manager
Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-6527

File Room:
Monday – Friday: 8:00 to 5:00
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

Oakdale Joint Unified School District
168 South 3rd Avenue
Oakdale, California 93232
(209) 848-4884

Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 to 4:30

Oakdale High School
739 West G Street
Oakdale, California 95361
(209) 847-3007

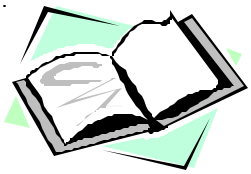
Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

Glossary



Arsenic - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. In the environment, arsenic is combined with oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur to form inorganic arsenic compounds. Arsenic in animals and plants combines with carbon and hydrogen to form organic arsenic compounds.

Cadmium – As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Cadmium is a natural element in the earth's crust. It is usually found as a mineral combined with other elements such as oxygen (cadmium oxide), chlorine (cadmium chloride), or sulfur (cadmium sulfate, cadmium sulfide). All soils and rocks, including coal and mineral fertilizers, contain some cadmium. Most cadmium used in the United States is extracted during the production of other metals like zinc, lead, and copper. Cadmium does not corrode easily and has many uses, including batteries, pigments, metal coatings, and plastics.

Chlordane - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Chlordane is a manufactured chemical that was used as a pesticide in the United States from 1948 to 1988. Technical chlordane is not a single chemical, but is actually a mixture of pure chlordane mixed with many related chemicals. It doesn't occur naturally in the environment. Because of concern about damage to the environment and harm to human health, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned all uses of chlordane in 1983 except to control termites. In 1988, EPA banned all uses.

Copper - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Copper is a reddish metal that occurs naturally in rocks, soil, water, and air. Copper also occurs naturally in diseases like mildew, for water treatment and, as preservatives for wood, leather, and fabrics.

Lead– As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from gasoline, paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years.

PAH's - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat. PAHs are usually found as a mixture containing two or more of these compounds, such as soot.

Mailing List Coupon

If you have any comments concerning the removal activities on the Oakdale High School site or if you would like to be placed on the Site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC, Public Participation Branch, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826.

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip Code
Phone Number: Fax Number:
E-Mail:

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Attn: Kim Rhodes
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Inside:

The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft Removal ActionWorkplan for the proposed expansion on the Oakdale High School