

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



Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, October 2004

Radcliff Elementary School Expansion Proposed for Cleanup

Pajaro Valley Unified School District is working on an expansion of the Radcliff Elementary School located at 512, 518, 524, 530 Rodriguez Street and 38 and 40 W. Lake Avenue in Watsonville. During the site investigation, lead contaminated soil was found throughout the site (see bolded site areas on page two). When lead levels are found above the established standards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires the school district to clean up the soil to a safe level before continuing with the school expansion.

The school district has proposed a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil from the site. We encourage you to attend a public meeting to review and comment on the plan. The proposed cleanup plan, called a Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW), is also available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four. If you have questions about this site, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or email Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft RAW and the California Environmental Quality Act, Notice of Exemption (NOE). DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning **October 15, 2004** and ending **November 15, 2004**. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. that day. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Michael Lozano, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826
or by email at Mlozano@dtsc.ca.gov

Public Meeting about Site Cleanup

You are also invited to attend a public meeting, which will provide information on the proposed cleanup activities and results of the soil investigations for the proposed expansion on the Radcliff Elementary School. The public meeting also provides an opportunity for DTSC to hear and address your comments. The public meeting will be held:

November 4, 2004
Radcliff Elementary School
550 Rodriguez Street
Watsonville, California 95076

The public meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.



This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and background of the site
- Findings of the investigation
- Remedies for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)
- Proposed activities for cleaning the site
- Impact of the California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

History and background of the site

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) proposes expanding the former Radcliff Adult School and returning the facility to its original use as an elementary school. As part of the expansion, PVUSD has acquired eight nearby residential parcels totaling 1.4 acres in downtown Watsonville. The parcels were all residentially developed in 1886. All of the parcels except for one have remained residential or vacant. One parcel contains a small market.

Findings of the investigation

Soil sampling conducted January through April 2004 found lead in the soil at levels above the established limits. Lead levels on the site are as high as 3,300 parts per million. DTSC requires lead to be at or below 255 parts per million for a school property.

It is likely that lead contamination in the soil came from the lead-based paint used on buildings at the site. Children can get lead in their bodies from eating lead-based paint chips or from playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys and reproductive system.

Because the elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment, DTSC recommends the soil be removed before expanding the site.

Options for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)

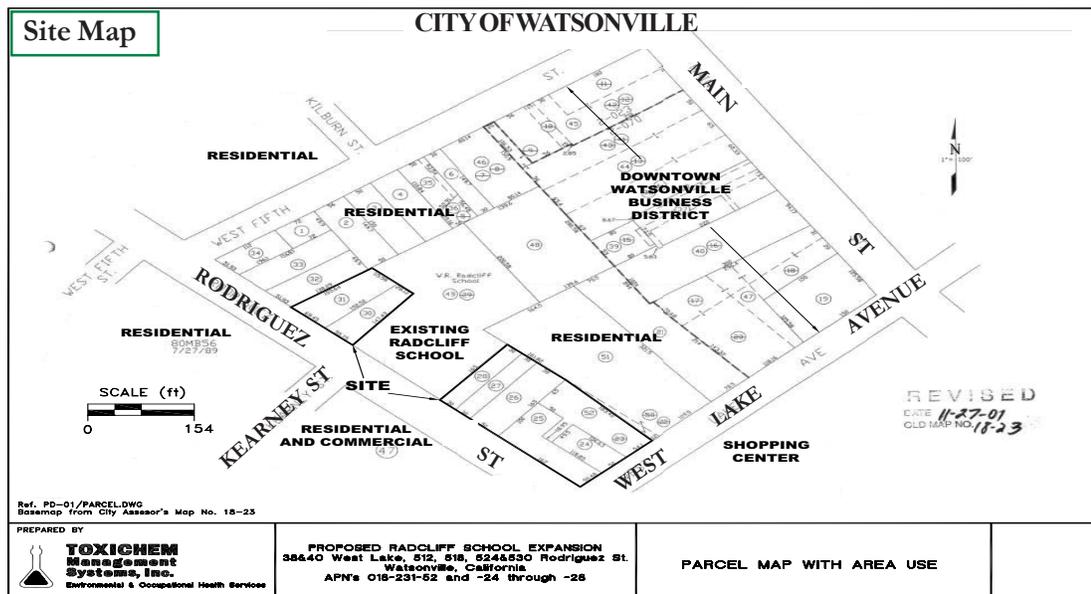
The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to conduct a removal action to prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. A Draft RAW summarizes previous studies, outlines available cleanup activities and proposes removal options. In addition to cleanup methods, a Draft RAW identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities, we will review and consider the comments received during the 30-day public comment period.

Proposed cleanup method

After considering and reviewing the alternatives, cleanup options and methods, DTSC recommends the following activity for the site:

- Remove approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil (130 truckloads)
- Transport contaminated soil, using a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor, to a State-licensed disposal facility
- Backfill with clean imported soil, if necessary



Cleanup activity

If the plan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities for approximately five days:

- Personnel using standard backhoe machinery and safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Stockpiles covered with tarps to protect them from wind and rain
- Covered trucks removing soil from the site to a State-licensed landfill
- Airborne dust monitoring



Example of a backhoe at work

Fencing

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

Truck route

A variety of truck types will be used to deliver and remove supplies and materials from the site on an as needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Trucks exiting the site will:

- Leave the site onto Rodriguez Street and proceed east onto Highway 129, then merge onto southbound 101
- Exit at Highway 156, then merge onto Highway 152 traveling eastbound
- Highway 152 will merge onto southbound Highway 5
- Highway 5 exits at Highway 41, then proceed directly to Kettleman City, Chemical Waste Management, Kettleman Hill Facility

Dust suppression

Control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Airborne dust monitoring will ensure that efforts to reduce dust are working. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned and soil loads will be covered with tarps so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.

Impact of the California Environmental Quality Act-Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by 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 of soil, the short duration of the cleanup, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken away for disposal.

Next steps

More sampling will be conducted after the cleanup to verify that the contaminated soil has been properly removed and that the site is safe for the school.

Anyone who submitted comments regarding the cleanup activities will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document includes all of the comments we received about the Draft RAW, the cleanup activities and the NOE during the 30-day public comment period. It will also provide DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of "The Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repository.

For More Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact Mr. Michael Lozano, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6523.

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. Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer at (510) 540-3732.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with 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.

Information Repositories

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

Watsonville/Aptos Adult School
Downtown Center
280 Main Street
Watsonville, California 95076
(831) 786-2160

Parjaro Valley Unified School District
294 Green Valley Road
Watsonville, California 95076
(831) 786-2100

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Mr. Michael Lozano, DTSC Project Manager
Mlozano@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-6523

File Room:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
By appointment only (916) 255-3758