



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD



Draft Remedial Action Plan And Proposed Negative Declaration for the Harmon Field Site Pixley, California

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 10, 2010 through October 11, 2010
PUBLIC MEETING: September 30, 2010, Pixley, California 93256

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED?

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announces a 30-day public comment period on the draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Proposed Negative Declaration for the Harmon Field Site (Harmon Field). Field was a former airport, at 1494 South Airport Drive, Pixley, California. It encompasses approximately 40 acres on a 104 acre parcel. It is owned by the County of Tulare and was used as a base for crop duster activity from 1951 to 1994. The airport was closed in 1994. DTSC proposes a remedy to clean up soil at Harmon Field that is contaminated with DDT (also known as 1,1,1 Trichloro 2,2 bis[p-chlorophenyl]ethane) and Toxaphene, both organochlorine pesticides. The results of the Remedial Investigation (RI) showed the highest concentrations of pesticides to be in the following areas: 1) the ditch located to the North of the Earlimart Dusters wash pad and drains; 2) the area containing buried trash located immediately east of the rinse water pond; 3) the rinse water pond; and 4) selected areas of asphalt from the runway and taxiways. The draft RAP describes the proposed cleanup activities at Harmon Field. Soil containing DDT and Toxaphene will be excavated and treated on-site by low temperature thermal desorption and contaminated asphalt with minor concrete debris will be removed and placed in an on-site vault (or containment structure).

The US EPA descriptions of thermal desorption is: Thermal desorption removes harmful chemicals from soil and other materials by using heat to change the chemicals into gases. These gases are collected with special equipment. The dust and harmful chemicals are separated from the gases and disposed of safely. The clean soil is returned to the site. Thermal desorption is not the same as incineration, which uses heat to destroy the chemicals.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

TBerg@dtsc.ca.gov. All mailed and emailed comments must be received by October 11, 2010.

DTSC will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft RAP, to answer the community's questions, and to receive public comments. The public meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2010 at 6 PM at the Pixley Community Room, 161 North Pine Street, Pixley, California 93256

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Copies of the revised draft RAP and other site-related documents are available at the below information repositories:

Department of Toxic Substance Control
File Room
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93612
(559) 297-3901

Tulare County Pixley Branch Library
(Pixley Union Elementary School)
300 North School Street
Pixley, California 93256
(559) 757-3880

CONTACT:

If you have any questions regarding the draft RAP, contact: Tom Berg, DTSC Project Manager, at (559) 297-3978 or email TBerg@dtsc.ca.gov. For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Tammy Pickens, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3594 or email TPickens@dtsc.ca.gov. For media inquiries, contact Kam Coveyou at (916) 324-8304 or email KCoveyou@dtsc.ca.gov.