

# J&S Chrome Plating Company Bell Gardens



## Field Work Continues

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 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



### INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is continuing investigation activities on the J&S Chrome Plating Company Parcels to further determine the extent of contamination. The next phase of fieldwork will begin in October 2002 and will last approximately four weeks. J&S Chrome Plating is located at 6863 East Florence Place in the City of Bell Gardens.

This fact sheet includes a brief site history, results from the investigation conducted in September 2001, and other information. Additional information is available in the September 2001 J&S Chrome Plating Company site Fact Sheet, and in key site documents at the local Information Repositories, or by contacting DTSC staff. A glossary of terms used in this fact sheet is found on page 4.

### SITE HISTORY

J&S Chrome Plating Company is located adjacent to the former Chrome Crankshaft Company and Downey Vendors Industrial Properties. Environmental investigations and cleanup of these properties are addressed separately. Suva Elementary and Intermediate Schools are located to the west, within a one-block radius of the site. Bell Gardens Park is located adjacent to the two schools. In addition, the Moaf Child Care and Development Center, the Treasure Island and John Anson Ford County Parks, and three churches (Saint Gertrudes, Bell Gardens Baptist and Christ's Harvesters) are all located within walking distance to the site. Several residences are located directly across Florence Place Street from the site.

J&S Chrome Plating Company, constructed in 1953, consisted of a one-story building where electroplating with chrome, zinc, and cadmium took place. Metal plating and cleaning operations involving various acids and alkalines were performed at this site. This site includes two parcels, a North and a South Parcel. The South Parcel is paved and has been the subject of investigation and cleanup activities conducted in the past. Some site investigation of the North Parcel has also been conducted. An additional investigation conducted by DTSC in September 2001 further characterized the extent of contamination on the North Parcel, which is currently unpaved.

**FIELD WORK  
CONTINUES  
AT  
J&S CHROME  
PLATING CO.  
  
SEE INSIDE:  
For More  
Information on  
Upcoming  
Sampling  
And  
Field Work  
Activities**

**PREVIOUS SITE INVESTIGATION AND RESULTS**

In September 2001, DTSC conducted further investigation on the North Parcel of the property. This investigation verified and expanded upon prior investigation activities conducted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

As part of the September 2001 investigation, air-monitoring was performed to monitor air quality during field activities and check for contaminant concentrations in the vapors emitted from the soil samples. Results of the air-monitoring program showed increased concentrations of particulate matter and hexavalent chromium above background levels during the three days of site assessment activities. Results also indicated that levels of particulate matter and hexavalent chromium detected during the period of time field activities were conducted remained below exposure limits established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the DTSC.

The site initially prepared for soil sampling activities by clearing away vegetation and debris, was followed by soil sampling activities on September 20 and 21, 2001. Samples collected from various locations and depths, ranged from one to 12 feet below ground surface. Results from the laboratory indicate the presence of metals, specifically chromium, hexavalent chromium, lead, and cadmium, in the soil samples collected at depths ranging from 1 to 8 feet below ground surface. A limited number of soil samples collected from 12 feet below ground surface indicated the presence of low concentrations of chromium. Selected soil samples were also analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Laboratory results indicate that no VOCs, TPH, and/or PAHs were found in soil.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

A Risk Assessment is being planned to evaluate conditions at the site related to public health and environment. Additionally, the Risk Assessment provides a means to determine how much cleanup is needed at the site to be protective of human health and the environment. The Risk Assessment is anticipated to be completed by the end of Fall 2002, and will be placed in the Information Repositories for public review (see page 4 for more information).

**UPCOMING SAMPLING AND FIELD WORK ACTIVITIES**

Upcoming fieldwork on the J&S Chrome Plating Company property is scheduled to begin in October 2002, and will last approximately four weeks. Sampling is scheduled to occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Drill rigs and other heavy equipment will be used to conduct these activities. During scheduled fieldwork operations, the tarp (visual barrier) that currently exists will remain to minimize visual distraction to students attending nearby neighborhood schools. Sampling activities will include collecting soil, soil gas, and groundwater samples from the site and surrounding properties.

Fieldwork activities include drilling approximately 32 soil borings on the South Parcel (with samples taken at the surface, and at depths ranging from 3 to 65 feet below ground). Soil samples will be analyzed for hexavalent chromium (chromium 6), other metals, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Soil gas will also be sampled at various locations on both the North and South Parcels and analyzed for VOC concentrations. Approximately 5 groundwater-monitoring wells will be installed at selected locations on the site.

A Health and Safety Plan to ensure the protection of both the onsite workers and the community is available at the local Information Repositories (see page 4 for information). To ensure workers' street clothes are not contaminated, workers will wear protective clothing while performing sampling activities.

A meter to monitor levels of dust and a decibel meter to monitor noise generated by field activities will be at the site. These monitoring activities provide additional means of ensuring both the workers and the public's health and safety.

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## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Data generated from these additional investigation activities will be included in a Remedial Investigation Report. The objective of the Remedial Investigation is to identify the full nature and extent of contamination associated with the site. Next a Feasibility Study to determine what methods can be used to address contamination at the site will be conducted. After completion of these studies, a draft Remedial Action Plan is prepared that summarizes the results of the investigations and proposes a cleanup plan for the site. The draft Remedial Action Plan will be made available to the public for review and comment when complete. A public meeting will also be held to discuss the project and receive public comments. You are encouraged to participate and to share specific concerns and issues about the project.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Chromium** - Chromium is an industrial metal used in diverse products and processes. It is also an essential human nutrient in minute amounts.

**Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**- A department within the California Environmental Protection Agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. DTSC was formerly the California Department of Health Services, Toxic Substances Control Division. (For more information on DTSC, visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)).

**Health and Safety Plan** - A plan used to describe controls and procedures to implement safety measures to minimize any incidents, injuries, and/or health risks associated with the field work activities conducted at the site.

**Hexavalent Chromium** - is also known as chromium VI or chromium 6. Chromium is used for making steel and other alloys, bricks in furnaces, and dyes and pigments. It is also used for chrome plating, leather tanning, and wood preserves. Chromium has no taste or odor. Hexavalent Chromium is a known carcinogen that can enter the body through inhalation (breathing), or through the ingestion of food or water which are contaminated by the metal.

**Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)** – A department within State government tasked with developing and enforcing water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect and enforce the many uses of water, while considering the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts and the environment. (For more information on the RWQCB, visit their website at [www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov)).

**Remedial Action Plan** - A plan approved by DTSC that outlines a specific program leading to the cleanup of a contaminated site.

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study** - A series of investigations and studies to identify the types and extent of contamination in the environment (Remedial Investigation) and provide an evaluation of alternatives for cleanup of any contaminated soil or groundwater (Feasibility Study).

**Risk Assessment** - The process of evaluating toxic properties of a chemical(s), and the likelihood that those exposed will be adversely affected.

**Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)** - Natural constituents of crude oil, and also may be formed when organic materials such as coal, oil, fuel, wood, or even foods are not completely burned. PAHs tend to stick to the ground, do not easily dissolve in water, and generally do not move in the environment.

**Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)** - A measure of the concentration or mass of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents present in a given amount of air, soil, or water.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** - Organic liquids, including common solvents that readily evaporate at temperatures normally found at ground surface and at shallow depths.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Program will continue to be implemented during cleanup activities at J&S Chrome Plating Company site. Public involvement is encouraged by DTSC. The public will be kept informed of new opportunities to provide input into DTSC's decision-making process.

For further information on public involvement opportunities, please call Ms. Stacey Lear at (714) 484-5354.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like additional information about the J&S Chrome Plating Company site, please call the Project Manager, Yasser Aref at (714) 484-5349 or the DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Stacey Lear at (714) 484-5354.

**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

This fact sheet, which is part of the Administrative Record for the site, as well as other documents relating to the site are available for public review at the following locations:

Bell Gardens Public Library  
Reference Section  
7110 Garfield Avenue  
Bell Gardens, CA  
(562) 927-1309

Commerce Central Library  
Reference Section  
5655 Jillson Street  
Commerce, CA  
(323) 722-6660

Administrative Record Location  
Dept. of Toxic Control Substances  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Contact Julie Johnson for appt.  
(714) 484-5337

**DTSC PROJECT CONTACTS:**

Dr. Yasser Aref  
Project Manager  
(714) 484-5349

Ms. Stacey Lear  
Public Participation Specialist  
(714) 484-5354

**DTSC MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Jeanne Garcia  
Public Information Officer  
(818) 551-2176

Notice to Hearing-Impaired: You can obtain additional information using the California State Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 (TDD). Ask them to contact Dr. Yasser Aref, DTSC Project Manager at (714) 484-5349 regarding the J&S Chrome Plating Company site.

**- MAILING COUPON -**

*If you are interested in being added to or taken off of the distribution list for mail related to the J&S Chrome Plating site, please fill in this mailing coupon and mail it to Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist, at DTSC, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630.*

Please place me on the distribution list for future materials related to this site.

Please remove my name from the distribution list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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DTSC mailings 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.



Ms. Stacey Lear  
Public Participation Specialist  
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