



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

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



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, December 2007

Emergency Removal Action at J&S Chrome Plating Company, Bell Gardens, CA

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Leticia Hernández al número (714) 484-5488.

A cleanup plan to remove soil contaminated with metals from the J&S Chrome Plating Company site is available for public review and comment. The cleanup plan, called an Emergency Removal Action Workplan (ERAW) was developed for this site which is located at 6863 East Florence Place in Bell Gardens. The site is adjacent to the former Chrome Crankshaft Company site, now known as Locomotive Air Services, Inc. The surrounding area is residential and industrial and both Suva Elementary and Intermediate Schools are located directly adjacent to both J&S Chrome Plating Company and Locomotive Air Services, Inc.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why cleanup is necessary
- Site history
- Emergency Removal Action Workplan activities
- Safety and dust control measures
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Where to find site documents
- Next steps
- Who to contact for information

There is no immediate health because the site is paved preventing public access to the contaminated soil. However, DTSC recommends the ERAW activities be conducted to ensure no human contact occurs with the hazardous substances known to exist at the site. DTSC will oversee the ERAW activities and make certain it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Open House Announcement

December 14, 2007 – 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Suva Intermediate School Library
6660 East Suva Street, Bell Gardens, CA 90201-1493

DTSC also invites you to an Open House to meet with you, receive your comments and discuss any project concerns you have. Please join us Friday, December 14, 2007, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Public Comment Period

December 6 to December 20, 2007

The ERAW and other related projects documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3. We will consider and respond to all public comments before field work is implemented. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than December 20, 2007, and sent to:** Mr. Wael Ibrahim, DTSC Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, E-mail: wibrahim@dtsc.ca.gov.



Why Cleanup is Necessary

DTSC determined the elevated levels of metals detected in soil and shallow groundwater are above DTSC's protective standards. Therefore, DTSC conducted several site response actions at the site. Because the site poses a public health risk should human contact occur, DTSC recommends the ERAW activities be conducted.

Site History

J&S Chrome Plating Company was constructed in 1953 and consisted of a one-story building where electroplating of chrome, zinc, and cadmium was conducted. Metal plating and cleaning operations involving the use of various acids and alkalines were performed at the site. The site includes two parcels, a North and a South Parcel. The South Parcel is paved and has undergone environmental investigation and cleanup activities in the past. In April 1991, chrome plating activities ceased and the site has been vacant since that time. In 1992, the former facility building which housed the plating operations was demolished. During 1992, some of the contaminated soil from the South Parcel was excavated and backfilled with clean fill material and the entire surface of the South Parcel was paved with asphalt. A 6-foot high chain link fence encloses the property and also separates the South Parcel from the North Parcel. No plating operations were conducted on the North Parcel which remains vacant and unpaved.

Soil contamination occurred mainly from past electroplating of chrome, zinc and cadmium, and cleaning operations involving various acids and alkalines. Contaminants detected at the site include the presence of metals, particularly hexavalent chromium (known as Chrome VI). Our primary concern is the hexavalent chromium that is currently beneath the pavement on the site. Although there is hexavalent chromium (Chrome VI) in the shallow groundwater beneath the site (approximately 70 feet below ground surface) and offsite, no drinking water wells have yet been affected (drinking water aquifers are more than 1,000 feet below ground surface). Under DTSC oversight, a number of investigations and response actions have been conducted at the site.

Emergency Removal Action Activities

The site in its existing condition poses no immediate threat to public health because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, the site poses a public health risk should human contact occur with the hazardous substances known to exist at the site. The purpose of the ERAW is to take advantage of the upcoming Suva School winter break schedule

and conduct the soil removal activities while students and faculty are away on winter break. The site will be restored to conditions that are protective of long-term public health and the environment.

Demolition Activities - The ERAW proposes to excavate, remove and transport up to 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. However, before the excavation, removal and transportation activities can be conducted, the existing building structure and foundation will be demolished. Building debris and remaining vegetation will be removed and disposed of in an approved landfill.

Excavation and Removal Activities - Up to 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be excavated, removed and transported to an approved landfill. Excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil. Contaminated soil will be temporarily stockpiled onsite, and covered in plastic to prevent airborne dust, in preparation for transportation to an approved landfill.

Groundwater Treatment - To ensure no further groundwater contamination occurs on the site, a groundwater treatment system will be installed as part of the cleanup activities for both J&S Chrome Plating Company and Locomotive Air Services, Inc.

Safety Measures & Dust Control During Cleanup Activities - The following actions will be implemented to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with wind-screens for security and dust control;
- Driving vehicles at slow speeds while on the site property;
- Spraying work areas with clean water to control dust;
- Securing truck contents with covers before they leave the site;
- Brushing tires of trucks entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris;
- Monitoring the air to ensure dust levels remain at safe levels, including fence line monitoring for dust and chemicals to ensure that the schools and community are protected.

How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the ERAW activities for the site. A **15-day public comment period begins December 6, 2007 and ends December 20, 2007**. You may provide your comments on the ERAW during this time. **All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by December 20, 2007**

and sent to:

Mr. Wael Ibrahim, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: wibrahim@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received.

California Environmental Quality Act

Although not required, under the California Environmental Quality, DTSC is preparing a Negative Declaration, as the activities will not have a significant effect on public health and the environment.

Where to View ERAW and Other Project Documents

The ERAW can be viewed at the following Information Repositories:

Bell Gardens Public Library
7110 Garfield Avenue
Garfield, CA 90201-3244
(562) 927-1309
Mon – Closed
Tues – Thurs 10:00AM – 7:00PM
Friday – 10:00 – 6:00PM
Saturday – 10:00AM – 5:00PM
Sunday – Closed

Commerce Central Library
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040-1493
(323) 722-6660
Mon – Thurs 10:00AM – 8:00PM
Friday - 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday - 10:00AM – 2:00PM
Sunday - Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the above number to make an appointment.

Next Steps

It is anticipated the ERAW activities will begin through the Suva Schools winter break period and continue through early 2008. Field work will take approximately 10 weeks and will occur Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Field work that occurs after the Suva Schools winter break will be limited to school commencement and dismissal hours.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the project or the ERAW activities, please contact the following persons:

Mr. Wael Ibrahim
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5471
E-mail: wibrahim@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866- 495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201-2205
(818) 551-2176
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

**NOTICE OF EMERGENCY REMOVAL WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES
AND 15-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

J& S CHROME PLATING COMPANY SITE, 6863 EAST FLORENCE PLACE, BELL GARDENS, CA

You may use this form to send in your written public comments on the Emergency Removal Activities for the J&S Chrome Plating Company site. You may also use this form to ask to be added or deleted from the J&S Chrome Plating Company site mailing list. If you know of anyone or any organization that would like to be on the mailing list, use this form to notify us. Please address all mailings to Mr. Wael Ibrahim, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA, 90630.

Reminder: All public comments on the Emergency Removal Action Workplan must be postmarked or e-mailed by December 20, 2007.

Name: _____

Agency or Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please add to the J&S Chrome Plating Company site mailing list.

Please delete from the J&S Chrome Plating Company site mailing list.

Comments: _____

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.



Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Inside: Information on the J&S Chrome Plating Company Site

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov