

Fact Sheet, June 2009



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Groundwater Remedy Plans for J&S Chrome Plating & former Chrome Crankshaft Available for Public Review and Comment

Proposed cleanup efforts to extract and treat chromium contaminated groundwater from J&S Chrome Plating Company (J&S) site and former Chrome Crankshaft Company (CCC) sites are available for public review and comment. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared separate cleanup plans for each site, called draft Remedial Action Plans (RAP). The J&S and CCC sites are adjacent properties located at 6863 and 6845 East Florence Place, respectively, in Bell Gardens. The sites are also directly adjacent to both Suva Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Groundwater Cleanup is Necessary
- History & Operations at Sites
- Response to Community Input and Soil Cleanup Completed
- Proposed Groundwater Treatment Plans
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Next Steps and Who to Contact for More Information

COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

July 1, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Ross Hall - Bell Gardens Veterans Park
6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens 90201

DTSC invites you to a community meeting to discuss proposed cleanup, CEQA activities, and to receive your public comments. Please join us.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

JUNE 17 to JULY 17, 2009

Each draft RAP, Initial Study/Negative Declaration and other related project documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3. We will consider and respond to all public comments before implementing field work. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than July 17, 2009, and sent to:** Mr. Al Shami, DTSC Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, E-mail: ashami@dtsc.ca.gov.



Why Groundwater Treatment Is Necessary

Under current conditions neither the J&S nor CCC sites pose a threat to human health. However, under future land use scenarios, DTSC determined that elevated levels of chromium detected in shallow groundwater and formerly in soil at both sites are above DTSC's protective standards and require further cleanup to protect public health and the environment. DTSC has previously investigated, conducted and completed several site response actions at both sites.

History & Operations at the Sites

J&S Site: Constructed in 1953, the site consisted of a one-story building where electroplating of chrome, zinc, and cadmium was conducted. Metal plating and cleaning operations involving uses of various acids and alkalines were conducted. The site was divided into a North and South Parcel. In April 1991, chrome plating activities ceased on the South Parcel and the site has been vacant since that time. In 1992, the former facility building which housed the plating operations was demolished. A 6-foot high chain link fence encloses the property. No plating operations were conducted on the undeveloped North Parcel.

CCC Site: Chrome plating operations began in 1963. In January 1999, CCC stopped plating operations and removed its chrome plating equipment. Thereafter, CCC changed its name to Locomotive Air Services, Inc. (LASI), and used the building for a short time to refurbish locomotive air-conditioning units. These operations did not involve chrome plating or the use of hazardous materials. In 2001, LASI ceased all operations at the site. In January 1994, a single on-site building was demolished and the site was paved with asphalt. A 6-foot high chain link fence encloses the property.

Response to Community Input

In December 2007, DTSC announced an Emergency Removal Action Plan for the J&S site. This plan called for removal and off-site disposal of chromium contaminated soil for J&S. Prior to implementing this plan, DTSC held a number of briefings and meetings with interested residents, Suva Schools, parents, school faculty and staff, Montebello Unified School District

staff and City of Bell Gardens representatives. DTSC was asked if cleanup activities for both sites could be scheduled during school breaks when students, faculty and staff are not in school. DTSC accommodated the community's request and reviewed and amended its plans. DTSC then determined soil cleanup for both sites could be accomplished during school breaks by dividing both sites into Operable Units (OUs) so that additional groundwater investigations could continue. OU 1 is identified as *soil* and OU2 is identified as *groundwater*.

Soil Cleanup Completed in July 2008

J&S Site: About 7,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and removed during school breaks. Contaminated soil was transported off-site to an approved disposal facility. Ten (10) Infiltration Cells were also installed on-site to chemically fixate chromium VI and transform it to chromium III, which occurs naturally in the environment.

CCC Site: About 3,750 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and removed during school breaks. Contaminated soil was transported off-site to an approved disposal facility. As at the J&S site, eleven (11) Infiltration Cells were installed on-site to chemically fixate chromium VI and transform it to chromium III, which occurs naturally in the environment.

Proposed Groundwater Treatment Plans for OU 2

To address remaining contaminated shallow groundwater impacts at both sites, the following actions are proposed for both the J&S and CCC sites:

Construction of on-and off-site groundwater extraction systems to recover impacted groundwater from four (4) extraction wells for each site (eight wells total), and the construction of a single treatment plant to treat extracted groundwater using granulated activated carbon (GAC) and calcium polysulfide which is used as a reductant for removal of heavy metals. The use of existing on-site infiltration galleries and the construction of additional groundwater infiltration galleries as may be required. This proposed remedy will rely on the natural

attenuation of residual chemicals.

How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the draft RAP activities and Initial Study/Negative Declaration for both the J&S and CCC sites. A **30-day public comment period begins June 17, 2009 and ends July 17, 2009**. You may provide your comments on one or both draft RAP documents and/or Initial Study/Negative Declaration during this time. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by **July 17, 2009** and sent to:

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

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires government agencies to review all proposed projects such as environmental cleanup work to determine if the cleanup process itself will have a harmful effect on public health or the environment. DTSC prepared a draft Initial Study following CEQA guidelines and determined the proposed cleanup activities will not have an adverse environmental impact. Therefore, a Negative Declaration is proposed.

Where to View draft RAP and Other Project Documents

The draft RAPs, Initial Study/Negative Declaration and other supporting documents can be viewed at the following Information Repositories:

Bell Gardens Library
7110 Garfield Avenue
Garfield, CA 90201-3244
(562) 927-1309

Sunday – Monday - Closed
Tues – Thurs 10:00AM – 7:00PM
Friday – 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday – 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Commerce Central Library
2535 Commerce Way
Commerce, CA 90040-1410
(323) 722-4805

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 number above to make an appointment.

Next Steps

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received. DTSC anticipates proposed RAP activities for both sites will begin after the draft RAP approval. A Remedial Design will be prepared and construction of the groundwater treatment system will begin in early 2010. Groundwater treatment activities will not impact students, faculty or staff, and are safe to occur during active school periods.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the project or the draft RAP activities, please contact:

Mr. Al Shami, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5472
E-mail: ashami@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6520
(818) 717-6573
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired

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

For more information about our department, please visit our website [at www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

