



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 #13, January 2007

## Continuing investigations and clean up at the East Slag Pile Landfill at the former Kaiser Steel Mill

We invite you to review and comment on a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the East Slag Pile Landfill (ESP Landfill) and surrounding area. (The ESP Landfill is sometimes referred to as the ESP Waste Management Unit.) The ESP Landfill was used to dispose of waste materials from the now-closed Kaiser Steel Mill. It includes 25.5 acres of filled area and 10.9 acres that surround the filled area. The ESP Landfill is part of the East Slag Pile, a steep-sloped, man made hill. The area is located just south of 13425 San Bernardino Avenue in a commercial/industrial area roughly bordered by Valley Boulevard to the south, a warehouse on the west, Mulberry Ditch to the east and San Bernardino Avenue to the north.

We prepared a projected schedule for the environmental remediation and closure of the Kaiser Steel Mill site, including the ESP Landfill portion. For the ESP Landfill, the steps include completing the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), RAP, Remedial Design, and construction of the remedy. Studies of the unit showed that within the landfill, metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds, and landfill gas (methane and non-methane volatile organic gases) are present. The cleanup plan for this unit has been outlined in the site's draft RAP, which proposes cleanup activities, including installation of a suitable cover system or cap, a landfill gas control system, a groundwater monitoring system, and a deed restriction to limit the use and activities on the site.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). We serve as the lead agency in overseeing the investigation and cleanup of this site. Our goal is to protect the public health and the environment. The cleanup team includes our agency, the Integrated Waste Management Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the San Bernardino County local Enforcement Agency, the project owner (CCG Ontario, LLC), and its contractors.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** **January 17, 2007 to February 15, 2007**

A 30-day public comment period will be held on the draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the East Slag Pile Landfill as part of the ongoing cleanup of the former Kaiser Steel Mill. We invite you to submit your comments during this time. DTSC will consider your comments before a final decision is made and only after all the issues have been considered.

**Public Hearing** to be held on **February 1, 2007**  
Josephine Knopf Senior Center, 8384 Cypress Avenue, Fontana

6:00 - 6:30 – Open House  
6:30 – Presentation/Public Hearing

The open house will include poster displays and handouts. It is an opportunity to meet and discuss with the staff from our agency and the contractors who will be doing the work. The presentation will give more details on the project.

### **Meeting Accessibility**

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, contact Leticia Hernandez (714) 484-5488 or (866) 495-5651 (toll free) at least one week before the hearing.





Map of the Kaiser Steel Property and the East Slag Pile area

### History and operation of the Landfill

As part of the former Kaiser Steel Mill, which operated from 1942 to 1983, the East Slag Pile was mostly used to dispose of slag, a rock-like byproduct of iron and steel production largely composed of calcium oxide. A portion of the East Slag Pile may have served as a landfill as early as 1943. Organic and inorganic wastes from the steel mill operations were placed in a slag “bowl” on the East Slag Pile, which created the landfill. Therefore, the unit is surrounded by slag on all sides and is underlain by a layer of slag with an average thickness of about 30 feet.

From 1979 until 1983, the ESP Landfill operated as a Class III landfill. Little waste went into the landfill after 1983. No waste was accepted after June 1985, except for wastes encountered during excavation of the West and East Slag Piles.

### Proposed remedial options

The following are five cleanup options were considered for the site:

Option 1: No Action

Option 2: Prescriptive Cover (Title 27) with deed restrictions, landfill gas collection system, and post-closure monitoring

Option 3: Monolithic soil cover with deed restrictions, landfill gas collection system, and post-closure monitoring

Option 4: Enhanced monolithic soil cover with deed restrictions, landfill gas collection system, and post-closure monitoring

Option 5: Prescriptive Cover (Title 22) with deed restrictions, landfill gas collection system, and post-closure monitoring

Based on an analysis of the remedial options, Option 4 was recommended as the preferred remedy for the site. This option describes a cover to be placed over the top deck, side slopes and benches. The cover will consist of three layers: a foundation layer at the base; a low permeability layer of soil and an upper layer of soil to support vegetation and/or an upper vegetative layer and/or asphalt-concrete pavement for vehicle parking. The monolithic soil cover uses plant transpiration and soil evaporation to minimize water from coming through the cover into the landfill and acts as a barrier between the wastes and people, plants, and animals.

### Our proposal to close the ESP Landfill:

- Bringing in soil for the cover
- Constructing a landfill gas extraction system
- Placing the cover as described on Option 4
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells

### Dealing with dust and traffic

To protect the public from dust, we propose to lightly spray the soil with water during construction, and cover and secure stockpiles of clean soil and other construction materials as necessary. The construction activity period is anticipated to last 16 weeks. There will be an average of 280 vehicles entering and leaving the site daily to deliver soil for the cover. A flagman will direct these trucks as they enter or exit the site to minimize traffic impacts.

### An environmental assessment for the East Slag Pile Landfill

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires our agency to evaluate all proposed projects to determine if they could have significant adverse impacts. We completed an Initial Study and determined the proposed project does not have a significant adverse impact.

### How to give us your comments

The 30-day public comment period begins January 17, and ends on February 15, during which time you can provide us with your comments and questions about the draft Remedial Action Plan and proposed CEQA document. All comments must be postmarked or emailed by February 15, 2007, and sent to:

Greg Sweel, DTSC Project Manager  
 5796 Corporate Avenue  
 Cypress, California 90630  
 Email: [gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov)

Oral comments will be taken at the public hearing on February 1, 2007 (see box on page 1).

### **Where to find the documents**

Copies of the Draft Remedial Action Plan, CEQA document, and other documents related to the site are available for your review at the following locations:

Fontana Public Library  
16860 Valencia Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335  
Tel: (909) 823-3023

Hours of Operation: Mon. & Tues. 12-8,  
Wed 10-8, Thurs. & Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-5,  
Sun. 12-5

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact the File  
Coordinators at (714) 484-5337 or  
(714) 484-5336 to make an appointment.

### **For more information**

If you have questions regarding the site, please contact either of these people at our agency:

Greg Sweel, DTSC Project Manager at  
(714) 484-5413 or [gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:gsweel@dtsc.ca.gov)

Leticia Hernandez, DTSC Public Participation  
Specialist, at (714) 484-5488 or toll free  
(866) 495-5651  
[lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **For Media Inquiries**

For media questions, please contact Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176 or email: [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

You can get information by using the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask to speak to Leticia Hernandez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5488 or toll free 1-866- 495-5651.

*Para información en español por favor contacte a Leticia Hernández por teléfono al (714) 484-5488 o (866) 495-5651 (gratis).*



*Our mailings are used only for the keeping you informed of our activities. We don't routinely release our mailing lists to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.*



Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Leticia Hernandez  
Public Participation Specialist

***INSIDE:*** *Public comment period and hearing for the draft Remedial Action Plan for East Slag Pile Landfill at the former Kaiser Steel Mill*