



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Our mission is  
to provide the  
highest level of  
safety, and to  
protect public  
health and the  
environment  
from toxic  
harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## Fact Sheet, February 2011

# Soil Cleanup Plan Available for Public Comment for Former Madera Manufactured Gas Plant Site

## Madera, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this fact sheet to inform the community about an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed cleanup plan (called a draft Removal Action Workplan or draft RAW) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) former manufactured gas plant site (referred to in this fact sheet as the site) located at 9th Street and South E Street, in Madera, California. The site is currently used by PG&E as an open space storage facility and as a mobilization yard for field crews. PG&E is cleaning up this site voluntarily as part of a company-wide program to address impacts from historic operations at various sites throughout its service territory.



*Current photo of Madera Yard from Clinton Street*

### Public Comment Period February 7 to March 8, 2011

DTSC invites interested members of the public to review and comment on the proposed cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the former Madera manufactured gas plant site during a 30-day public comment period beginning **February 7, 2011** and ending **March 8, 2011**. The draft RAW describes the previous investigations and the proposed cleanup activities for the site. The draft RAW and other site-related documents are available for review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet or online at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public).

**All written and emailed comments must be submitted by March 8, 2011.** A self addressed stamped postcard is enclosed to submit your comments. Please submit your comments to:

Kevin Shaddy – DTSC Project Manager  
1515 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611-0522  
Office Phone: (559) 297-3929  
[kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov)



## Site Description and History

The site is about one acre in size and is currently used by PG&E as an open space storage facility and as a mobilization yard for PG&E field crews. The site is completely paved with asphalt, enclosed with a six-foot high cyclone fence, and contains a small storage building adjacent to the Clinton Street entrance.

From 1913 to about 1931 a manufactured gas plant operated at the site. This plant produced gas for the lighting, cooking and heating needs of local residents. The plant was dismantled when natural gas became available in Madera, and the MGP structures were removed from the site from 1931 to 1935.

## Site Investigations

Since 1986, several phases of site investigations have been conducted at the site to determine if manufactured gas plant residues are present in soil, soil gas (the air in between soil particles) and groundwater. These investigations have identified varying levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) in the gasoline, diesel, and crude oil ranges, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and metals, including lead and arsenic, in soils and soil gas at depths primarily between 1 to 10 feet.

Groundwater beneath the site occurs at a depth of approximately 105 feet. Samples of groundwater beneath the site indicate that groundwater has not been impacted as a result of the former MGP operations.

## Human Health Risk Assessment

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was conducted to determine if chemicals present in the soil and soil gas pose a risk to human health or the environment. The HRA determined that the chemicals detected in the soil and soil gas at the site do not pose a significant risk to current on-site commercial workers, on-site and off-site workers who may occasionally work in or handle the soil, or off-site residential and commercial populations.

Although the HRA concluded that none of the chemicals detected at the site pose a significant risk to populations under the current site uses, the site use may change in the future. In order to restore the site to a condition that would be protective of all future land uses, including development of the site for future residential uses, some form of soil cleanup will be necessary.

## Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated

The purpose of the draft RAW is to summarize and evaluate the nature and extent of impacts at the site and to identify a preferred cleanup approach that prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. Cleanup alternatives were evaluated based on a variety of factors including effectiveness, ability to be implemented, state and public acceptance, and cost.

Four cleanup alternatives were evaluated for the site:

1. **No Action** - This alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline against which other cleanup alternatives can be compared. This alternative would involve no cleanup actions and the site would remain in its current condition.
2. **Capping and Institutional Controls** - This alternative would involve placing and/or maintaining an asphalt or concrete cap over the entire site, without any soil treatment or soil removal. A deed restriction would be placed on the site in order to maintain the cap and to prohibit sensitive uses or activities which could damage or penetrate the cap. This alternative prevents exposure to site users, minimizes the disturbance of impacted soil and minimizes dust, and reduces water infiltration. The volume and concentrations of contaminants would not be reduced under this option.
3. **Excavation and Offsite Treatment** - This alternative would involve excavating the contaminated soil with standard earthmoving equipment. The excavated soil would be transported off-site for treatment (thermal desorption

treatment/recycling). The excavated area would be backfilled with clean fill and the site would be restored. The overall volume and concentrations of contaminants would be reduced under this option.

4. **Excavation and Offsite Disposal** - This alternative includes excavation of contaminated soil with standard earthmoving equipment and backfilling the excavated areas with clean fill. The excavated soil would be transported off-site for disposal at an appropriately permitted facility with no treatment and/or recycling of soil. The volume and concentrations of contaminants on-site would be reduced under this option.

### **Recommended Cleanup Alternative**

Based on a complete evaluation of the cleanup alternatives, Alternative 4, excavation and off-site disposal of PAH contaminated soil from within the fenced in area of the site, has been identified as the proposed cleanup alternative. The proposed cleanup alternative offers long-term protection of the community and can be readily implemented. As a contingency measure, if there is impacted soil that cannot be removed because it is located near utilities or other structures that limit access, Alternative 2, capping and institutional controls will be implemented in those areas.

The following activities would be performed under the recommended cleanup alternative:

- Performing an underground utility survey to identify all piping and other underground features;
- Removal and demolition of asphalt paving within nine areas of the site;
- Phased removal of approximately 5,600 tons (approximately 280 truckloads) of soil and asphalt from depths ranging between 2 and 10 feet;
- Placement of excavated soil in a truck and/or bin for off-site disposal;
- Confirmation sampling to determine that the excavation has removed impacted soil;
- Backfill and compaction of excavated areas with clean, imported soil (approximately 330 truckloads);

- Restoration of all removed paving; and cleanup and restoration of all related structures and work areas.

In addition, the following project controls designed to protect the surrounding community will be implemented during cleanup and containment activities:

- A remedial design and site-specific health and safety plan will be prepared to guide all remediation work;
- An environmental project manager will be on-site daily to monitor and approve all work;
- Airborne dust monitoring will be conducted during all excavation activities and throughout the daytime work schedule;
- Dust suppression activities will be performed including limiting the size of excavated areas for easy management and minimizing exposed soil, spraying water onto soil and work areas, stopping all work on windy days, covering soil piles, and covering all trucks leaving the site; and
- Measures to limit noise from construction will be taken including working only during hours allowed by the city and keeping noise levels below city-allowed decibel levels.

### **California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have significant impacts on the environment.

### **Next Steps**

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, modify, or deny the draft RAW, it is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period from February 7 to March 8, 2011. After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document. DTSC will consider all of the comments that were received during the comment period prior to making a final decision on the draft RAW.

The Response to Comments document will be placed in the information repositories that have been set up for the site.

If the draft RAW is approved, a work plan will be prepared to guide all soil excavation activities. Soil excavation activities will likely begin in late-2011 and are expected to last up to three months. Work will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Trucks transporting soil from the site are expected to exit on to 9th Street east to Highway CA-145/ South Gateway Drive and turn left on Highway CA-145/Madera Avenue and continue to northbound Highway 99.

### **Where to Find Site Documents**

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAW, NOE, and other site-related documents which are available at the information repositories listed below:

Madera County Main Library – Reference Desk  
121 North G Street, Madera, CA 93637  
(559) 675-7871

DTSC File Room,  
1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611  
(559) 297-3901 Call for an appointment  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F

All documents made available to the public by the DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law. Please contact Christina Fu for assistance as noted in the “*For More Information*” section.

**EnviroStor Database:** Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets, and other site-related information are available online at DTSC’s website:

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>

### **For More Information**

For more information about the draft cleanup plan or to be added to the site mailing list please contact the following DTSC representatives:

For questions about the cleanup, please contact:

Kevin Shaddy,  
DTSC Project Manager  
1515 Tollhouse Road  
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Email: [kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov)  
Office Phone: (559) 297-3929

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact:

Christina Fu,  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Email: [cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)  
Toll-Free: (866) 495-5651 (press 4 twice)  
Office Phone: (714) 484-5488

For media related inquiries, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia,  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
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Office Phone: (818) 717-6573

### **Notice to the Hearing Impaired**

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact Christina Fu at (714) 484-5488 regarding the PG&E Former Madera MGP site in Madera, California.

*For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public).*