



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, May 2007

Results issued for dioxin testing near former Mobile Smelting

Residents near site may need to limit egg consumption

Introduction

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed its study of dioxins in soil and eggs near the Mobile Smelting site (site) at United Street and Reed Avenue in south Mojave. In 2004, DTSC collected egg and soil samples from residential areas south and east of the former smelting site to see if dioxin was present. In prior investigations, DTSC found high levels of dioxin on the site. We expanded our investigation to areas surrounding the site.

Based on the study results in the affected area, DTSC recommends that certain residents within the boundary of the affected area southeast of the site (see the map on page 2) limit the number of eggs they eat to four a week from chickens or other poultry raised on the ground of homes. There are approximately 100 homes in the affected area. DTSC also recommends that people not sell these eggs. Eggs from chickens or poultry in pens or cages above the ground are not affected, and are safe to eat.

History

Mobile Smelting recovered copper from wire by burning off the insulation. It also recovered aluminum by melting aircraft parts. Recovery operations began in 1970 and ended in 1990.

DTSC studies of the site from 1988 to 1990 showed high levels of lead, copper, and zinc in the soil. In 1990, DTSC sprayed the site with a coating to prevent the contamination from spreading. In the early 1990s, DTSC removed the debris and scrap from the site. At that time, we found ash on the site with high concentrations of dioxins. We placed the ash into a secure metal container and installed fencing around the entire site. From 2001 to 2004, DTSC studied areas nearby the site.

What are dioxins?

Dioxins are a group of highly toxic chemicals created when garbage, plastics, metals and wood, and other materials are burned. Dioxins are also created during many industrial activities such as smelting for metal recovery. Because dioxins last for many years and can travel long distances in the air, they are commonly found in the environment.

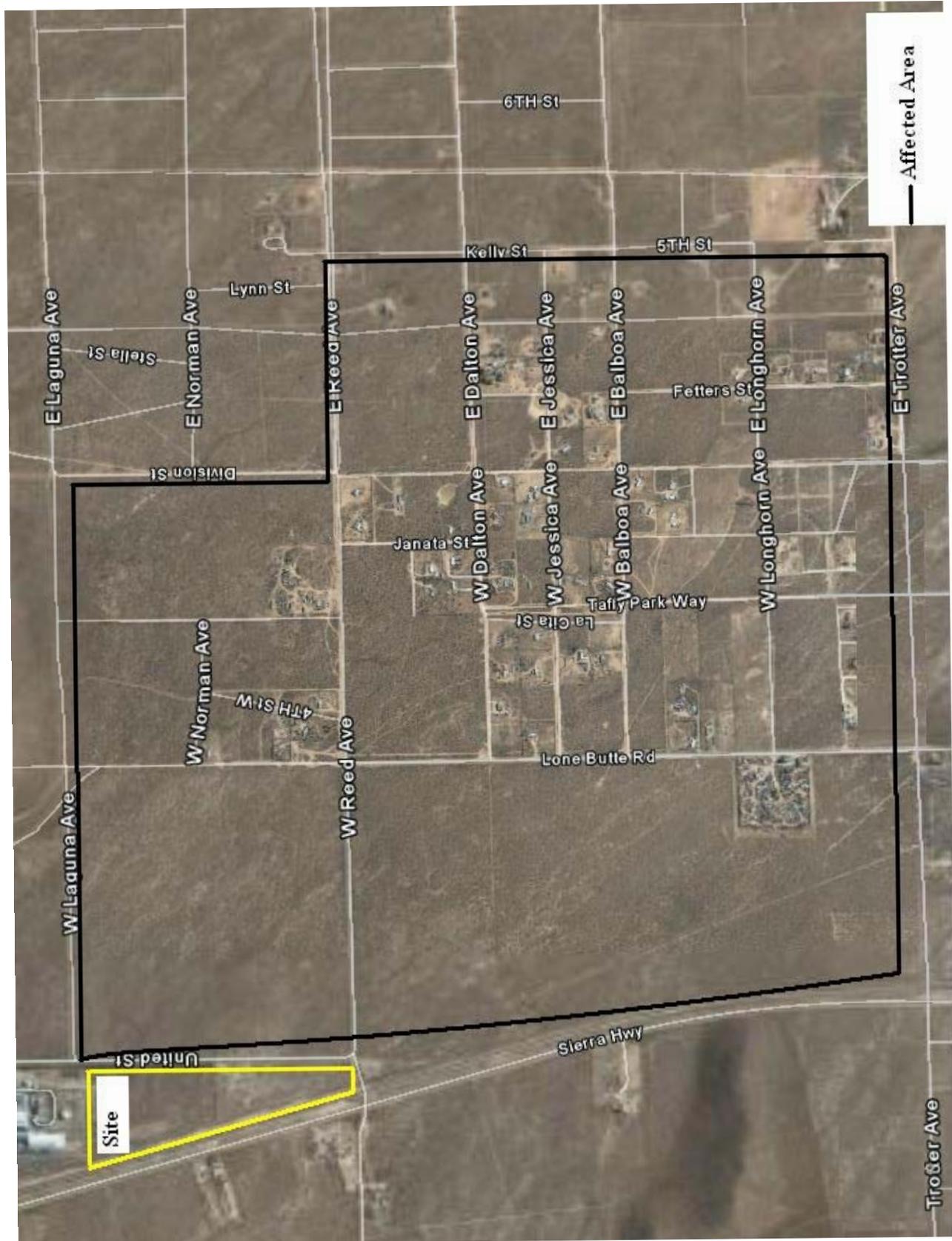
Risk from exposure to dioxins

The levels of dioxins we found in eggs southeast of the site are low enough that we would not expect persons to become ill from eating them in the short term. However, dioxins can build up in your body over time and may increase the risk of developing cancer. We are concerned about people eating eggs containing dioxins regularly for many years.

Study Results

DTSC found that dioxin contamination has spread by wind to the southeast of the Mobile Smelting site. The dioxin concentrations become lower further from the site. Sample results in soil of the residential area between Lone Butte Road and Fifth Street show dioxins are generally below a level of 50 parts per trillion. According to the Human Health Risk





Assessment, completed in 2005, soil concentrations of dioxins below this level do not present a significant risk to residents.

DTSC also estimated the cancer risk posed to residents from eating locally grown chicken eggs. Our estimate concluded that the level of dioxins in eggs may pose a long-term risk to people who eat the eggs regularly for many years. After much discussion with Department of Health Services (DHS) experts, we are issuing this advisory.

Recommendations:

The level of dioxins found in eggs could cause a very small increase in your cancer risk. While the risk from eggs in the affected area is small, it is high enough for DTSC to recommend:

- Limit the number of eggs consumed to four a week from poultry raised on the ground of the affected area.
- To limit exposure, you can reduce the chickens' contact with the area soil. One of the best ways to do that is to raise chickens or other poultry in above-ground cages or pens. In a separate mailing, DTSC will send to you a DHS fact sheet that further explains the risks associated with dioxin and how to reduce them.

Future Actions

Risk Assessments support the need for cleanup actions on and immediately next to the site. DTSC will send you another fact sheet updating you on cleanup plans for the site and announcing a public meeting and comment period.

For More Information

If you have questions, you can contact the following DTSC staff:

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Sacramento CA 95826
Toll free telephone (866) 495-5651 or
NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

If you are from the news media, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer, DTSC,
(818) -551-2176 or JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

If you would like to review the "Human Health Risk Assessment", please visit:

Rosamond Public Library
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond CA 93560
(661) 256-3236 or the DTSC website,
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public . Please type in "Mojave" in the city box and click on "Get Report". Then please choose Mobile Smelting from the list of Mojave sites.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

If you use a T.D.D., you can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378. Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 about Mobile Smelting.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (866) 495-5651.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC'S MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the Mobile mailing list, fill out the information below and mail it back to Nathan Schumacher, 8800 Casl Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826:

Please print name and address clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.