

**Fact Sheet
January 2003**

FORMER MONROVIA MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE



MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA

Please Comment on Plan to Clean Up Chemicals In Soil

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



As you may know from our November 2001 letter, our cleanup team found some chemical pollution in the soil at the former Monrovia Manufactured Gas Plant site (site) located at 1622 South Magnolia Avenue in Monrovia. This small half-acre site is in an area that has a mix of houses, businesses, and light industries. There are no hospitals or daycare centers within one-quarter mile of the

site. Two local schools, First Lutheran Elementary School (in Monrovia) and Santa Fe Middle School (in Duarte) are within one-half mile from the site. Light foot and heavy street traffic are visible. The site is now the paved parking lot of a company that makes machine parts.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

January 9, 2003 - February 7, 2003

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the cleanup plan. We will take public comments beginning January 9, 2003 and ending February 7, 2003. On the back of this Fact Sheet we provide information on who to write or email your public comments to, and where to find the technical reports that provide detailed information.

THIS FACT SHEET TELLS YOU:

- What we found
- How it got there
- That it is not a risk to public health
- Why and how we plan to clean it up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who you can contact for more information

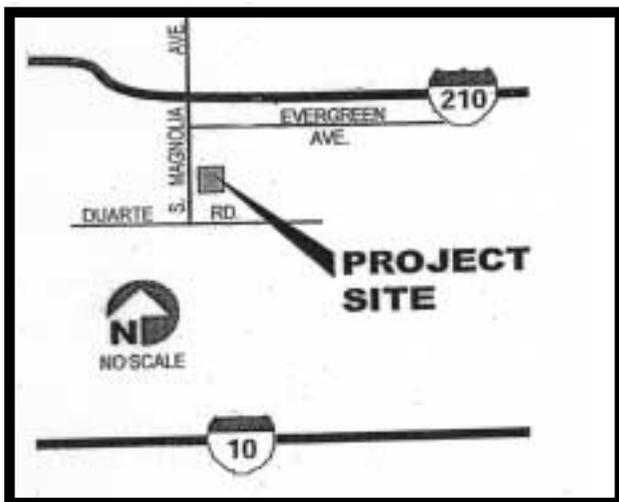
The cleanup team is made up of our agency, which is the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company). The Gas Company is responsible for the chemicals found at the site and is also responsible for the cleanup. Our agency makes sure the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that will protect the public's health and the environment.

CHEMICALS COMPOUND

The Gas Company drilled through the pavement and tested the soil at the site. The soil samples had chemicals called PAHs (polycyclic aromatic

hydrocarbons), VOCs (volatile organic compounds), TPH (total petroleum hydrocarbons), metals and cyanide. A health risk study was performed to study the potential risks of the chemicals found. Results showed the PAHs are the primary chemicals of concern. PAHs come from burning fuels such as coal, charcoal, and diesel. If people come into direct contact with these chemicals for a prolonged period of time with repeated exposure, the chemicals can cause health problems. When we remove the PAHs, the VOCs, TPHs, metals and cyanide will also be removed.

The soil was tested in several locations and chemically impacted soil was found in shallow areas. Because PAHs tend to stick to the soil and stay where they are, it is unlikely the PAHs



have moved beyond the site. If necessary, additional soil would be removed until cleanup is successful. We do not believe the chemicals got into the groundwater below the site. This is because the soil with PAHs and TPHs are close to the surface (shallow) and are at a distance greater than 200 feet from groundwater, and VOCs are at such low levels they do not impact groundwater.

NOT A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

The good news is the site is not a risk to the people who work there or to the people who live nearby. This is because the soil has been paved for over 30 years. The pavement is a protective barrier between the chemicals and the public.

HOW THE PAHs GOT THERE

The PAHs came from “lampblack”, which is a black, powdery, grainy material, similar to soot. Lampblack was generated when the gas plant burned oils to produce gas for people to use in cooking, heating and lighting. The gas plant operated between the years of 1907 and 1917. A machine parts company now operates a business on site.

WHY WE NEED TO CLEAN IT UP

Right now, the soil is covered (paved) and the public is not exposed. But in the future, someone may want to build something new or use the site for a different purpose. We need to remove the PAHs to make it safe for these other uses.

HOW WE PLAN TO CLEAN IT UP

Any cleanup plan has to protect public health, have a reasonable cost, and be shared with the community. We think the best plan that meets these goals is to take out the pavement, dig up about the top two to six feet of soil and haul both the pavement and soil away to a state approved treatment facility. This will be about 5,000 tons of soil, and will take about 200 truckloads. After we haul it away, we will bring in clean soil to fill the holes and re-pave the area. The cleanup will take place Monday through Friday during daylight hours. Occasionally light field work may occur on Saturdays. Cleanup will last about five (5) weeks. Although this is the cleanup we propose, we would very much like to hear your thoughts and comments (see page 3 for more information).

DEALING WITH NOISE, DUST, TRAFFIC

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, noise from the earth-moving equipment, and some traffic delays while trucks are driving to and from the site are expected. We will try to keep these distractions to a minimum. Here are some of the actions we will take to minimize the impact:

- Limit all digging to just the paved area, which is the parking lot of the business at the site.
- Spray the soil with water when loading it onto the trucks to minimize dust.
- Cover the soil in the trucks leaving the site with plastic sheets to prevent dust.
- Monitor the air at the site to make sure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.
- Use plastic sheets to cover any piles of dug-up soil that may have to be left in place overnight.
- Brush the tires of the trucks of any soil before leaving the site.
- Have a flagman on duty to direct truck traffic.

To make sure the workers are safe they may wear protective clothing. Workers will take off their protective clothing on site. All protective clothing will be safely disposed.

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS

Before we can begin the cleanup, we need to let you review our cleanup plan and let you tell us what you think. After we have received all public comments during the public comment period, we will evaluate your comments and make changes as necessary to the plan. If there are no major changes, cleanup could begin as early as February 2003.

ALSO FOR REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT: OUR PROPOSED DECISION ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE CLEANUP

We looked at how the proposed cleanup might affect the residents, air, plants and animals in the area. We found that it would not have a negative effect. We describe our study and proposed decision in a "Draft Special Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration" which is available for public review and comment from January 9, 2003 through February 7, 2003.

HOW TO GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

Please send your written public comments to Mr. Anthony Espinoza, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201-2205. You may also email your public comments to aespinoz@dtsc.ca.gov. All public comments must be postmarked or emailed by February 7, 2003.

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (Technical Reports)

The cleanup plan we are proposing is described in detail in the "Removal Action Work Plan for the former Monrovia Manufactured Gas Plant Site. This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks. All the documents about this site are at the Monrovia Public Library, 321 S. Myrtle Avenue, Monrovia, California, 91016, (626) 256-8274. We also have site documents at our office, located at 1101 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California, 91201-2205. If you plan to visit the Glendale office, please call Ms. Jone Barrio at (818) 551-2886 to make an appointment.

WHO TO CALL AT OUR AGENCY

Public involvement is encouraged by our agency. If you have any questions about the cleanup project or cleanup activities, please contact Mr. Anthony Espinoza, Project Manager, at (818) 551-2948, or Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354. If you have media inquiries, please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the Department of Toxic Substances Control, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Project Manager, Mr. Anthony Espinoza at (818) 551-2948.



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Anthony Espinoza
Project Manager
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201-2205

**INSIDE: INFORMATION ON FORMER MONROVIA MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE,
MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA**
