

Former Myers Drum Site Proposed Change to the Remedial Action Plan



Oakland, California

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is distributing this fact sheet to inform the community about a proposed change to the **Remedial Action Plan (RAP)** approved in 1996 for the Myers Container Corporation (Myers) former drum reconditioning facility (Site) located at 6549 San Pablo Avenue in Oakland California (figures 1 & 2).

Soil and shallow groundwater at the site were found to contain **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**. In 1999, the excavation and removal of contaminated soil was completed.

Pumping and treatment of groundwater to reduce VOCs in the shallow groundwater have significantly reduced VOC levels; however, the cleanup goals approved in the 1996 RAP have not been reached after various cleanup efforts.

DTSC has prepared a document called an **Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)** which describes a proposed change to the groundwater cleanup action at the site. (Page 3).

DTSC invites the public to comment on the draft ESD during a 30-day public comment period (see public comment box).

* Words in **bold** are defined in the glossary (Page 5).

Public Comment

DTSC invites the public to comment on the draft ESD during a 30-day public comment period from November 20, 2003 to December 19, 2003.

All comments received will be considered and a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared before the ESD is approved.

Mail written comments postmarked no later than **December 19, 2003 to:**

Ted Park, Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Ave., Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
tpark@dtsc.ca.gov

The draft ESD and other related documents are available for public review at the information repositories listed on the back page.

DTSC may hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest.

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



SITE HISTORY

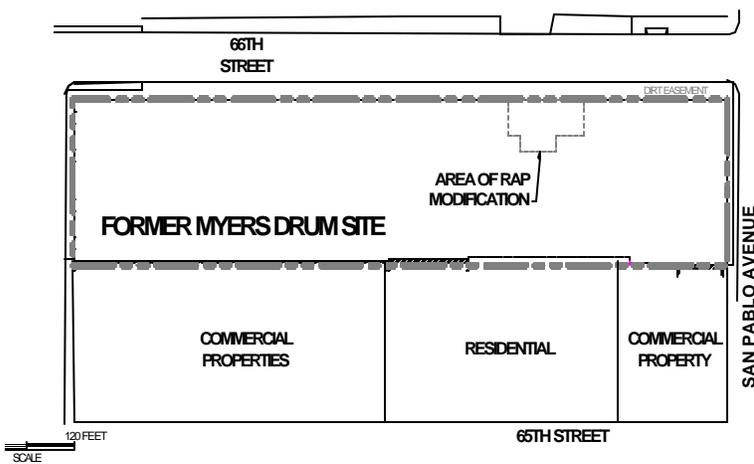
The Site is located at 6549 San Pablo Avenue on the northwestern side of Oakland, near the city limits of Emeryville and Berkeley.

The Site is approximately 600 feet long and 120 feet wide, with its length oriented along 66th Street. Myers performed drum reconditioning operations at the Site from 1939 through 1991. Drum cleaning resulted in the release of some chemicals into the soil and shallow groundwater.

Investigations conducted at the Site in the 1990s, found VOCs were the primary chemicals of concern in the soil and shallow groundwater. The contaminated groundwater at the Site was only found near the area where the former waste sumps were located. The area where contaminated groundwater occurs is a 30 by 80 foot portion of the Site (figure 2).

The Site is now vacant and is planned for future residential development.

FIGURE 2. Site Map



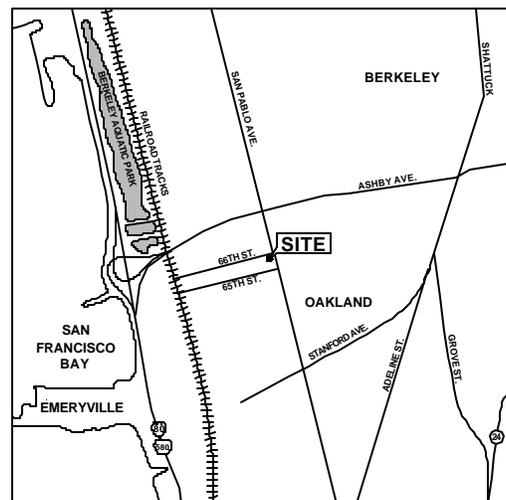
COMPLETED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

The cleanup actions approved in the 1996 RAP included:

1. Building decontamination, demolition, and disposal;
2. Excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil to meet residential cleanup goals;
3. Backfilling excavated areas with clean fill; and
4. Groundwater pumping and onsite treatment to meet the State drinking water standards.

The first three activities described above were completed in 1999.

FIGURE 1. Vicinity Map



The following groundwater cleanup activities which were approved in the 1996 RAP have been ongoing at the Site since 1999:

- Site investigations to evaluate the extent of the groundwater contamination;
- A groundwater pump test;
- Injections of **hydrogen releasing compounds (HRC)** into the groundwater to reduce the amount of contaminant s;
- Excavation of soil from the area overlying the groundwater contamination;
- Pumping of more than 57,000 gallons of groundwater from the excavation;
- Backfilling of the excavation with clean clay soil and pea gravel;
- Three rounds of pumping and treating of more than 74,000 gallons of groundwater which accumulated in the pea gravel fill; and
- Replacement of the pea gravel with clay soil to a depth of 12 feet below ground surface (water table is at 10 feet).

In October 2003, some of the pea gravel fill was removed and replaced with clay soil to minimize the migration of VOCs as vapors from groundwater and up through the ground surface.

EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

DTSC has prepared an ESD which proposes a change to the groundwater cleanup action approved for the Site. This change is proposed because although the groundwater cleanup goals established by the RAP have not been reached after various cleanup efforts, recent groundwater sampling indicates that the levels of VOCs in groundwater have been significantly reduced to levels that are protective of public health and the environment. .

The current concentrations of VOCs in the groundwater may have reached the minimum levels that can be met using pumping and treating methods. Additional pumping and treating of the groundwater is not expected to reduce the residual contamination any further.

The Site is planned for future residential development. Because of this, DTSC conducted an evaluation using a **vapor intrusion risk analysis** which looked at the possible exposure of future Site occupants to VOCs traveling up from groundwater and through the soil into buildings which would be constructed on the Site. The potential human health risks to future Site occupants were evaluated.

The vapor intrusion risk analysis found that the human health risk levels from exposure to these VOC vapors are within an acceptable risk range, which was used in the 1996 RAP following U.S. EPA regulations. (This risk evaluation is explained in more detail in Appendix A of the ESD document).

Shallow groundwater is not a source of drinking water and a **deed restriction** will be placed over the area where groundwater contamination is located so that it will not be a drinking water source in the future. Therefore, there is no risk to human health from exposure through drinking the water.

The ESD proposes to change the groundwater cleanup action portion of the 1996 RAP. This change would end the pumping and treating of groundwater but there would be ongoing **groundwater monitoring**. Two monitoring wells would be sampled to track the levels of groundwater contamination.

Groundwater monitoring would continue:

- for a 5-year period; or
- Until by -- **naturally occurring biological attenuation** -- the VOC concentrations reach the groundwater cleanup goals established in the 1996 RAP; or
- Until DTSC determines that monitoring can cease and the two monitoring wells should be removed.

As part of this proposed change a deed restriction would be recorded for the area of the Site where the groundwater contamination is found. This deed restriction would prohibit pumping groundwater for use as drinking water or for use for any other purpose other than groundwater cleanup or during construction.

DTSC has determined that the proposed change to the Site cleanup actions is protective of human health and the environment.

GLOSSARY

Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) - A document, approved by DTSC, that outlines modifications to the remedy established by the Remedial Action Plan. These modifications will still satisfy the requirement of protecting human health and the environment.

Remedial Action Plan (RAP) – A plan, approved by DTSC, which identifies a specific program leading to the cleanup of a contaminated site.

Vapor Intrusion Risk Analysis – A computer model study of the health risk from breathing indoor air contaminated with volatile chemicals emitted from underlying groundwater through subsurface soil.

Deed Restriction - A legal agreement recorded on the deed of a property restricting certain activities on the property without DTSC approval.

Groundwater monitoring - a process to observe and record groundwater quality by periodic sampling, chemical testing and analysis.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – A group of organic chemicals, which can readily change into the form of vapor.

Hydrogen Releasing Compounds (HRC) – A chemical compound produced by an acid liquid through hydration which encourages breakdown of the chemicals into non-toxic substances.

Naturally Occurring Biological Attenuation – A decaying process where chemicals break down over time due to non-toxic substances in the environment.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, please call DTSC Project Manager, Ted Park at (510) 540-3805 or DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Rachelle Maricq at (510) 540-3910. For media inquiries please contact DTSC Public Information Officer, Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.

Information Repositories

This ESD and other related documents to the Site are available for public review at the following locations:

Oakland Public Library

Golden Gate Branch

Reference Desk

5606 San Pablo Avenue

Oakland, California 94608

(510) 597-5023

DTSC File Room

700 Heinz Avenue

Berkeley, CA 84710

(510) 540-3800

Hours: Sun/Mon – Closed

Tuesday – 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wed/Thurs/Sat – 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Friday – 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hours: Mon/Fri – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist Rachelle Maricq at (510) 540-3910.

Rachelle Maricq, Public Participation
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710-2721