



**Department of
Toxic Substances
Control**

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control 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, March 2011

SOIL CLEANUP PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT COLUSA FORMER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE 105 Second Street Colusa, 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 Remedial Action Plan or RAP) for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) former manufactured gas plant site located at 105 Second Street in Colusa, California. The site is currently used by PG&E as a service center, a substation and a pole yard. PG&E is cleaning up this site voluntarily as part of a company-wide program to address historic contamination issues.

Environmental investigations found detections of petroleum based chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in some areas of soil on the site. Where access is possible, PG&E is proposing to excavate impacted soil and backfill these areas with clean soil. The selected remedy would allow continued use of the site as a service center, as well as provide long-term protection of human health and the environment should the future land use change.

DTSC encourages community members to review and comment on the draft RAP during the 30-day public comment period which runs from March 16 to April 15, 2011. The draft RAP describes in detail the environmental investigations and the proposed cleanup activities for the site. The draft RAP and other site-related documents are available at the information repositories listed on back of this fact sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – MARCH 16 - APRIL 15, 2011

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the proposed cleanup plan (draft RAP). DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period beginning March 16 and ending April 15, 2011. All comments must be submitted by April 15, 2011. Please submit your comments to:

Jerry Lile – DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Office Phone (916) 255-3744 email: jlile@dtsc.ca.gov

Public Meeting – March 30, 2011

DTSC will host a public meeting to explain the cleanup plan, answer questions and receive public comments.

Colusa Public Library, 738 Market Street, Colusa
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.



This fact sheet provides you with information about:

- Draft RAP Public Comment Period and Community Meeting Date
- Site Investigations and Background Information
- Proposed Cleanup Plan
- California Environmental Quality Act- Initial Study and Negative Declaration
- Who to Contact for More Information

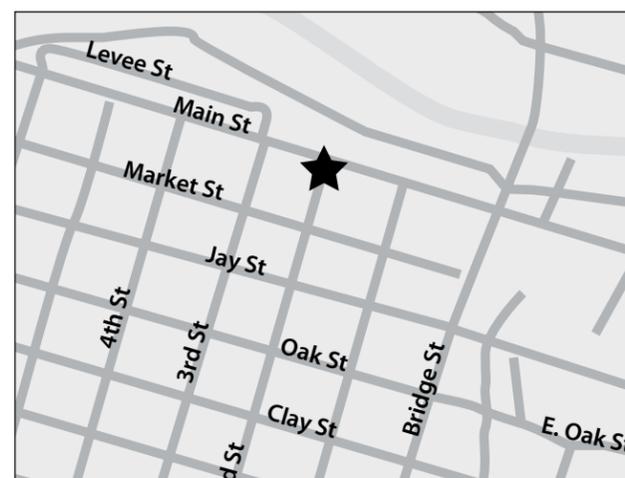
Site Description and History

The site is about 1.5 acres and is currently used by PG&E as a service center, a substation and a pole yard. The service center yard is paved and the substation has a gravel surface. Both areas are fenced with access provided through two locked gates located on 2nd and Main Streets. The pole yard is fenced and paved or covered with a gravel base and is accessed from the alley located between Main and Market Streets.

From 1886 to about 1940, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) 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 Colusa and most of the MGP structures were removed from the site in 1942.

Site Investigations

Since 1986, several phases of site investigations have been conducted to determine if manufactured gas plant residues are present in soil and groundwater. Soil at the site contains PAHs, TPH, VOCs, metals (lead and arsenic), and PCBs.



Contamination is generally limited to the upper 3 to 5 feet of soil, except in the eastern portion of the Service Center Yard where contamination extends up to approximately 20 feet below the ground surface.

Groundwater beneath the site occurs at a depth of between approximately 15 and 20 feet. Groundwater is sampled and analyzed semi-annually. TPH and arsenic are the only compounds to be detected consistently at the site. TPH detections are generally limited to a single on-site well; arsenic is detected seasonally in all wells. In addition, there have been infrequent detections of low concentrations of PAHs. Drinking water at the site is provided by the municipal drinking water system, and groundwater is not used for any beneficial purposes. Groundwater will continue to be monitored in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance agreement between PG&E and DTSC.

Human Health Risk Assessment

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was completed in November 2009 to determine if chemicals present in soil, soil gas and groundwater pose a risk to human health or the environment. The HRA determined that none of the chemicals detected in soil, soil gas or groundwater at the site 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. The HRA found that metals, TPH, PAHs, and PCBs in the soil would require some form of cleanup if the site's existing buildings, pavement, or other features were removed, or if the site was redeveloped at a later date for residential purposes. In order to restore the site to a condition that would be protective of all future land uses, some form of soil cleanup is necessary.

Draft Remedial Action Plan

The draft RAP evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies a preferred cleanup alternative that prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment.

Cleanup alternatives are evaluated based on a variety of factors including protection of human health and the environment, effectiveness, ability to be implemented, community and state acceptance, and cost.

Cleanup Alternatives Considered

Six 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 action and the site would remain in its current condition.
2. **Institutional Controls** – This alternative would place land use restrictions on the site that prohibits some site activities (digging, removing soil, etc.) and certain types of future land uses.
3. **Focused Excavations of Impacted Soils** – This alternative would involve the excavation and off-site disposal of impacted soils in accessible areas of the site and within areas of First Street.
4. **Focused Excavation of Impacted soils and Institutional Controls on First Street** - This alternative would involve the excavation and off-site disposal of impacted soils in select areas of the site and placing land use restrictions that limit certain types of activities within areas of First Street that contain impacted soils.
5. **Focused Excavation and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation** - This alternative would involve the excavation and off-site disposal of impacted soils in select areas of the site and First Street, and treating soil on-site using a chemical oxidation process.
6. **Focused Excavation, In-Situ Chemical Oxidation and Institutional Controls** - This alternative would involve the excavation and off-site disposal of impacted soils in select areas of the site and First Street, treating soil on-site using a chemical oxidation process and placing land use restrictions within areas of First Street that contain impacted soils.

DTSC Recommended Cleanup Alternative

Based on a complete evaluation of the cleanup alternatives, PG&E has proposed Alternative 3, focused excavation and off-site disposal as the most effective remedy for the site. This alternative offers long-term protection of the community and can be readily implemented.

The excavation would remove soils from select areas of the site including First Street. The proposed remedy would also include implementation of a land use covenant to prohibit certain types of land uses on the electrical substation.

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

- Removal of asphalt and concrete to provide access to impacted soils;
- Excavation of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of soil (about 400 truckloads) from a depth of up to 20 feet in the northeast area of the site and up to three feet in the southern pole yard; impacted soil located within the active electrical substation would not be removed since excavation in this area is not feasible or safe;
- Conducting airborne dust monitoring during excavation activities and throughout the daytime work schedule;
- Performing dust suppression activities consisting of limiting the size of excavated areas for easy management, spraying water onto soil and work areas, stopping all soil-disturbing activities on windy days, covering soil piles, and covering all trucks leaving the site;
- Disposal of excavated soil at a permitted landfill facility;
- Collecting confirmation samples from the bottom and sides of the excavation to ensure that all contaminated soil has been removed;
- Backfilling excavated areas with clean, imported soil; and
- Grading and paving to restore the site to its original grade.

Next Steps

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document. This document includes a response to all of the comments received on the draft RAP during the 30-day public comment period. DTSC will provide a copy of the Response to Comments to all individuals who commented (providing that contact information was given) as well as individuals who request a copy. This document will be placed in the information repositories that have been set up for the site.

Proposed Schedule and Truck Route

If DTSC approves the draft RAP, a work plan will be prepared to guide all soil excavation activities. Soil excavation activities will likely begin in late 2011 and will last approximately eight weeks. 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 will exit left (south) on Second Street, turn right (west) on Market street, turn left (southwest) on Highway 20 and continue to Interstate 5.

California Environmental Quality Act

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the cleanup actions were evaluated to determine if they would harm the environment. It was determined that the cleanup will have no impact on the environment or community due to the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be removed. This finding is documented in an Initial Study and a Negative Declaration, which is available at the locations listed below.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) 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 Heidi Nelson at (916) 255-3575 or toll free at (866) 495-5651 regarding the former PG&E MGP site in Colusa, California.

Information Repositories

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAP, Negative Declaration, and other site-related documents located at:

Colusa County Library – Reference Desk
738 Market Street
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-7671
Call for days and hours of operation.

Administrative Record: In addition to the library repository, the complete project file is available for review at DTSC's regional office in Sacramento.

DTSC - File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3618 – call for an appointment
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. M-F

EnviroStor Database: Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets, and other site-related information are available on-line at DTSC's website: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=06490001

For More Information

For questions about the cleanup, please contact:

Jerry Lile – DTSC Project Manager
Office Phone (916)255-3744
jlile@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact:

Heidi Nelson - Public Participation Specialist
Toll-free (866) 495-5651
Office Phone (916) 255-3651
hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact:
Jeanne Garcia - Public Information Officer
Office Phone (818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov