



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 #12, March 2009

Completion and Public Comment Period for the **Palos Verdes Landfill Five-Year Review**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is pleased to announce the completion of the Five-Year Review for the remedial and monitoring systems at the Palos Verdes Landfill. This fact sheet summarizes DTSC's findings on the performance and effectiveness of environmental control systems currently in place at the Palos Verdes Landfill and describes the public comment process that will commence on March 9, 2009.



Palos Verdes Landfill – View to the West

BACKGROUND

The Palos Verdes Landfill is located in Rolling Hills Estates, California, in Los Angeles County. The landfill began operation in 1952 with the BKK Corporation at what is now the South Coast Botanic Garden. The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) assumed operations of the site from BKK Corporation in 1957 until the landfill's final closure in 1980. With DTSC's oversight, the Sanitation Districts are currently responsible for operating and maintaining the environmental control systems at the Palos Verdes Landfill.

During operations, the Palos Verdes Landfill accepted municipal, industrial, and hazardous wastes. Volatile organic compounds were first detected in groundwater at the Palos Verdes Landfill in the early 1980s. As a result of the chemical detections in groundwater, a comprehensive Remedial Investigation and an associated Feasibility Study were conducted between 1988 and 1995 to characterize the nature and extent of contamination at and from the Palos Verdes Landfill, to evaluate the related health risks, and to determine appropriate remedial measures.

A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was prepared based on findings of the Remedial Investigation and the subsequent Feasibility Study.

In order to verify that the environmental control systems and remedial actions in place at the Palos Verdes Landfill continue to be effective, the Sanitation Districts provide quarterly reports to DTSC summarizing activities and groundwater monitoring results at the landfill. Additionally, DTSC performs five-year reviews of the Palos Verdes Landfill as another measure to monitor the performance of the environmental control systems.

ELEMENTS EVALUATED IN THIS FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

In March 2004, DTSC began the first of a series of five-year reviews of the remedial and monitoring systems at the Palos Verdes Landfill. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the environmental control systems in place at the Palos Verdes Landfill are effective in protecting human health and the environment, as outlined in the 1995 (RAP). Major elements evaluated during this Five-Year Review include:

- *Groundwater Protection Systems*
- *Gas Collection and Control System (Surface Air and Subsurface Gas)*
- *Soil Cover*
- *Stormwater*
- *Wastewater*
- *An Updated Health Risk Assessment*

As the first in a series of five-year reviews, DTSC dedicated an extensive amount of time and resources to promote and seek public involvement in an effort to address outstanding community concerns on the Palos Verdes Landfill. In addition to reviewing the effectiveness of the environmental control systems and determining the related health risks at the Palos Verdes Landfill, multiple special studies were conducted to further evaluate issues of concern received from the public and the local Community Advisory Board through interviews and survey questionnaires.

DTSC FINDINGS

Based on evaluations and assessments of the environmental control systems at the Palos Verdes Landfill and conclusions of the associated special studies performed during the Five-Year Review, DTSC finds the following:

- The groundwater protection system is effective. The concentrations of groundwater contaminants observed at and near the Palos Verdes Landfill are low and the total mass of groundwater contaminants has declined 52% since the Remedial Investigation. Impacted groundwater is not used for drinking water.
- Surface air monitoring data indicate that air quality above the surface of the landfill is better than air quality documented during the Remedial Investigation. There is little, if any, landfill gas emitted through the surface of the landfill, demonstrating that the extensive landfill gas control system and soil cover provide effective containment of landfill gas.
- Monitoring data collected during the Five-Year Review confirm South Coast Air Quality Management District findings that the Palos Verdes Landfill does not impact the Rancho Vista Elementary School.
- Data obtained from onsite and offsite soil gas studies indicate that subsurface landfill gas is not migrating from the Palos Verdes Landfill into adjacent properties.
- The Main Site is covered with approximately seven feet of low permeability clean soil, which is regularly inspected and maintained. This cover soil controls emission of landfill gas and prevents direct exposure to wastes.
- Seepage observed within Country Hills Estates and the Country Hills Shopping Center is the result of naturally occurring hydrogeologic and geochemical conditions and is not associated with the Palos Verdes Landfill.
- Existing monitoring programs adequately assess containment facilities and remedial measures at the Palos Verdes Landfill.

- Incremental lifetime cancer risks to onsite workers, visitors, and surrounding residents are well within the acceptable risk management goals established by DTSC for all subject receptors and land uses.
- A comparison of the projected risks in this report and those previously projected during the Remedial Investigation show a decline in risks to Site users and the surrounding residents.
- Landfill slopes were analyzed and were determined to be stable and able to withstand the most severe earthquake expected at the Palos Verdes Landfill.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DTSC will issue a public notice in addition to this fact sheet to announce the completion of the Five-Year Review. The public comment period will begin on March 9, 2009 for a period of 60 days. All public comments received by DTSC during this period will be considered, and if applicable, will be incorporated into the final Five-Year Review document. Comments should be sent to Dan Zogaib, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630 or by email to dzogaib@dtsc.ca.gov.

PUBLIC MEETING

DTSC will hold a public meeting to inform the community of DTSC's preliminary findings from the Five-Year Review and to provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions of DTSC's technical staff. Copies of the Five-Year Review will be available on Compact Disc (CD) at the public meeting. Additional copies of the Five-Year Review are available at information repositories as described in this fact sheet.

Meeting Date: April 27, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: South Coast Botanic Garden
Frances Young Hall of Horticulture

For information on meeting room accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Tim Chauvel at (714) 484-5487 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You can obtain additional information on the Palos Verdes Landfill by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Tim Chauvel, Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5487.

WHERE TO FIND THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

To access or download a copy of the Five-Year Review document, please visit DTSC website www.dtsc.ca.gov, and EnviroStor at:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19490181

or the Sanitation Districts website at:

http://www.lacsd.org/about/solid_waste_facilities/palos_verdes/Five-Year_Review.asp

Paper copies of the Five-Year Review are available at the following locations:

- Peninsula Center Library
650 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA
Phone: (310) 377-9584
- Torrance Civic Center Library
(also known as the Katy Geissert Library)
3301 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA
Phone: (310) 618-5959

To review information at DTSC, please call Julie Johnson, File Room Coordinator, at (714) 484-5337, or ext 5336, or fax (714) 484-5318 for an appointment.

AGENCY CONTACTS

DTSC encourages the public to contact the individuals below to address any questions or concerns regarding the Palos Verdes Landfill.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Daniel Zogaib, Project Manager
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Tim Chauvel, Public Participation Specialist
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Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
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Jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

David Rothbart, Project Engineer
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This is the fourth fact sheet provided by DTSC on the Five-Year Review. To review past factsheet information, please visit DTSC's EnviroStor or the following Sanitation Districts website:

http://www.lacsds.org/about/solid_waste_facilities/palos_verdes/default.asp