

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Proposed Cleanup Plan for former Arbo Box Site (aka Rippy Site) in Whittier, Now Available for Public Review and Comment

A proposed cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) is available for public review and comment for the former Arbo Box Site (aka Rippy site), located at 12468 Putnam Street, in Whittier. The draft RAW, if approved, proposes excavation, removal, transportation and disposal of soil contaminated with arsenic and limited chlorinated pesticides at the site. To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC conducted a preliminary project review and found that impacts would be less than significant, and a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) has been prepared. If approved, the RAW will allow for future commercial/industrial development of the property in your community following completion of cleanup activities.

Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), is a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, and is responsible for overseeing environmental investigations and cleanup activities at sites such as the former Arbo Box Site. This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site Location and History
- Previous Site Actions
- Proposed Cleanup Plan – draft RAW
- Safety and Dust Control Measures
- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- How You Can Participate & Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact at DTSC for Information
- Next Steps

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. Also, the site is fenced and locked, restricting public access. The contaminated soil is covered and groundwater is not impacted by the site. However, because exposure to elevated levels of arsenic and chlorinated pesticides found in soil can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommends a cleanup plan be developed and implemented to ensure on-site workers and the public are not exposed to soil impacts. DTSC will ensure work is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Public Comment Period



**August 29th, 2013
Through
September 30th, 2013**

A **30-day public comment period** is being held to receive public comments on the draft RAW. **The public comment period begins August 29th, and ends September 30th, 2013. All public comments must be post-marked or e-mailed by September 30th, 2013, and sent to:**

Joseph Cully
DTSC Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Joseph.Cully@dtsc.ca.gov

The draft RAW and other project documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3 inside this Fact Sheet.

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Historic site operations resulted in releases of agricultural chemicals, mainly pesticides and arsenic. Under future land use scenarios, DTSC determined that soil impacts are above DTSC's protective standards and require cleanup to protect human health and the environment.

Historical records and information indicate contamination impacts at the site were most likely caused by former agricultural uses of the site as well as the agricultural chemical distribution facility operation, California Spray Chemical Company, who occupied the site from 1952 to about 1960.

Site Location and History

The two-acre site is located at 12468 Putnam Street which is the eastern boundary of the property. Mixed commercial and industrial properties border the northern, western, and southern boundaries. The site, owned by Rippy Properties, LLC, is currently unoccupied. Situated on the site is an industrial building with a paved parking lot/storage area to the northeast and former storage areas to the southwest.

Perimeter fencing, locked entry points and posted signage have been implemented to limit public access and potential contact with contaminated soils.

Previous Site Actions

Current and historic records and reports were obtained to assess the site. Further assessment revealed that a leaking underground storage tank was identified in August 1985.

From March 2011 from April 2012, soil sampling was conducted during two phases (Phase I and Phase II) in four mobilizations and samples were analyzed for metals, pesticides and herbicides. About 391 soil samples were collected and analyzed from 90 locations both on and off-site. Soil sampling results revealed elevated levels of chlorinated pesticides and arsenic in soil.

Proposed Cleanup Plan – draft RAW

To address impacted soil at the site, the draft RAW proposes excavation of contaminated soil, transportation and off-site disposal at a facility permitted to accept such waste. Soil excavation would occur in two (2) phases: Phase I will address removal of contaminated soil in the top six (6) feet with Phase II addressing contaminated soil to a depth of 10 feet below ground surface in localized "hot spot" areas.

Approximately 13,000 cubic yards (about 753 truckloads) of contaminated soil would be removed. Excavated areas will be backfilled with clean fill. The proposed excavation, transportation, off-site disposal and backfill activities will remove soils that exceed DTSC's protective standards

prior to any potential commercial/industrial development. Perimeter fencing, and any replacement fencing added during removal activities will remain in place until redevelopment activities commence.

Safety and Dust Control Measures

To protect on-site workers and the surrounding community during the proposed cleanup activities, the following safety measures will be implemented under DTSC oversight:

Dust Control – To reduce dust, water will be sprayed, as necessary, when soil is loaded and unloaded during excavation activities. Soil in trucks will be covered with tarps to prevent fugitive dust. Trucks will maintain low speeds and decontaminated before leaving the site. Stockpiled soil or other exposed soil areas will be covered with plastic sheeting between working hours and any overnight hours. During excavation, tarp or other material will be fastened to the fence to further reduce fugitive dust from site activities.

Storm Water Control – To control storm water runoff, storm water controls will be implemented and monitoring will be conducted to ensure there is no migration (run-off) of contaminated soil if it rains.

Monitoring – Wind conditions will be monitored. In the event winds exceed 25 mph, work will cease until wind speeds fall below 25 mph. Air monitoring will be conducted to ensure dust stays at safe levels.

Traffic Control – To protect the public, traffic controls using flagmen to direct truck traffic and flow on and off-site will be conducted. Trucks exiting the site will use only authorized routes, as approved by the City of Whittier.

Site Security – The site will be secured and only authorized personnel will be allowed on-site.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC is required by CEQA to consider projects that have the potential to impact the environment before approval. DTSC prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) that explains why the proposed RAW activities will not have a significant effect on the environment. The draft NOE is available as shown below.

How You Can Participate – Public Comment Period

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAW. **The 30-day public comment period for draft RAW begins August 29th, and ends September 30th, 2013. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than September 30th, 2013, and sent to:**



Joseph Cully, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Joseph.Cully@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will consider and respond to all public comments received during the public comment period.

Where to Find Site Documents

Copies of the draft RAW and other related project documents are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602-1730
(562) 567-9900
Mon-Wed: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Thurs-Fri: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm (Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the above number to make an appointment).

For more information about the (former Arbo Box Site (aka Rippy Site), visit www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov. For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Additional Information Sources

Site documents are also available for electronic review on DTSC's EnviroStor website at www.EnviroStor.ca.gov.

Whom to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the former Arbo Box Site (aka Rippy Site), draft RAW or other related project activities, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Joseph Cully, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Joseph.Cully@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5473

Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-866-495-5651

Next Steps

Upon approval of the RAW, field work will take between four (4) to six (6) weeks to complete. Excavation equipment may include an excavator, backhoe, surface grader (or similar equipment), rubber-tire loader, water truck, and/or water hose.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can contact the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

Media Inquiries

Sandy Nax
Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
(916) 327-6114

Next Steps

Upon DTSC approval of the RAW, field work could begin in fall 2013.

Media Inquiries

Sandy Nax, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
(916) 327-6114
E-mail: Sandy.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.



Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, California 90630-4732

Inside: Information on the former Arbo Box Site (aka Rippy Site), Whittier

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov