



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, December 2006

DTSC proposes to consolidate and cover all mine tailings at South Eureka Mine site

Introduction

From December 1, 2006, to January 2, 2007, you may review and comment on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the South Eureka Mine. DTSC prepared the RAW to propose a cleanup method for the mine site under a voluntary cleanup agreement with the TPDDG Jackson Associates LLC. The South Eureka Mine property is located about 1500 feet east of Highway 49 on the north and south sides of Ridge Road in Sutter Creek, California. Please see the map showing the location of South Eureka Mine property on page two.

This fact sheet summarizes the investigation results, the health effects of arsenic exposure, and the proposed cleanup plan for the arsenic contaminated mine tailings.

The investigation results

TPDDG Jackson Associates LLC took 33 samples at the South Eureka Mine and analyzed them for heavy metals. Sampling revealed higher levels of arsenic present in the mine tailings than in mine areas without tailings. Results range from one part per million to 1200 parts per million with the vast majority higher than levels appropriate for unrestricted land use. Long term exposure to these levels could lead to health effects. In light of the potential risk, DTSC proposes action in the Draft RAW to prevent human exposure to arsenic as outlined on page three.

What are the health effects of arsenic?

Breathing elevated levels of arsenic may give you a sore throat or irritated lungs. Exposure to elevated levels of arsenic may cause nausea and vomiting, decreased blood cell production, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to blood vessels, and a sensation of pins and needles in hands and feet. Eating or breathing elevated levels of arsenic for a long time may cause skin darkening and the appearance of small corns or warts on the palms, soles, and torso. Eating high levels of arsenic can also result in death. The World Health Organization, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the US EPA have determined that arsenic can cause cancer in humans.

Public Comment Period

From December 1, 2006 to January 2, 2007

Please send your comments on the Draft RAW to:

Tami Trearse

DTSC - 8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento CA 95826

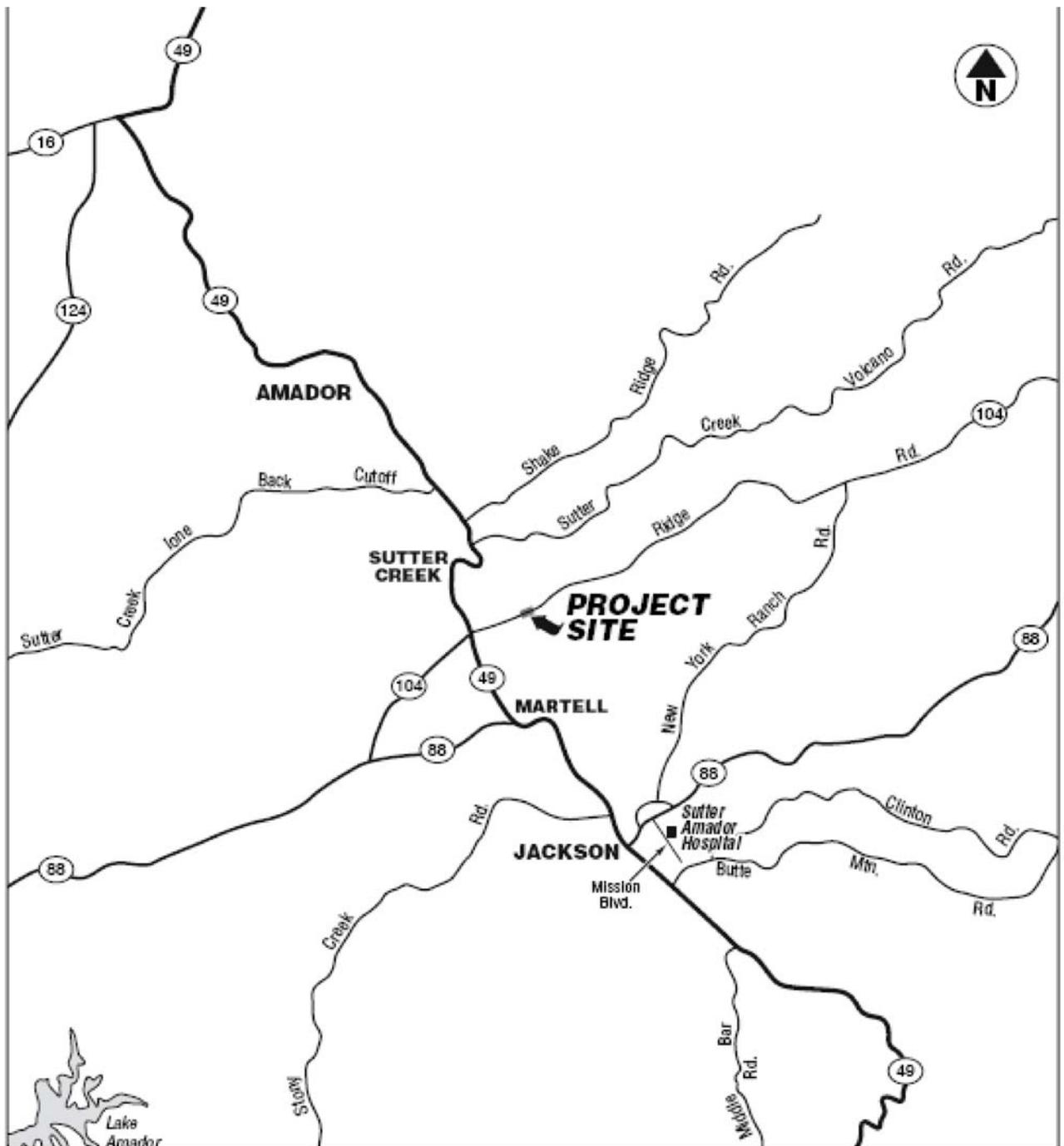
(916) 255-3747

TTrearse@dtsc.ca.gov

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (866) 495-5651.





What does the Draft Removal Work Plan propose?

Of all the options considered, relocating and consolidating the mine tailings in low lying areas and covering them proved to be the most effective, most protective of human health, and easiest way to clean up the mine site. After the action is complete, DTSC will place a land use covenant on the property to control its use and protect the cover (building pads, parking lots, and clean fill with landscaping). An operation and maintenance plan will be implemented to maintain the protective barriers.

DTSC proposes in the Removal Action Workplan to move all the mine tailings from throughout the site and use them to fill in several low lying areas on the property. DTSC concludes that this proposal will keep all future visitors and workers from being exposed to arsenic contaminated soil. The proposal, if put into effect, will require the TPDDG Jackson Associates LLC to:

- Move contaminated mine tailings (from less than one foot below ground surface to more than twenty five feet below the ground surface) to low lying locations on the property;
- Control dust during excavation, and during placement in the low lying areas;
- Take soil samples from excavated areas to make sure all arsenic contaminated tailings have been removed;
- Water down all equipment to make sure contaminated soil is not taken off-site;
- Fill some excavated areas with two feet of clean fill and grade other dug out areas to the existing ground surface level;
- Cover all areas that contain the mine tailings with building pads, roads, parking lots, or clean fill with landscaping.

If approved, TPDDG Jackson Associates LLC plans to start construction in January, 2007.

California Environmental Quality Act

As required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC must evaluate the environmental effects of any proposed cleanup actions. DTSC proposes numerous controls and since all of the work is on-site, DTSC believes that the

Draft Removal Action Workplan qualifies for an exemption under CEQA. The proposed CEQA Notice of Exemption is available for review at the locations listed below.

Contacts for Information

For more information, please contact:

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8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826

(916) 255-3747 or TTrearse@dtsc.ca.gov

Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
DTSC
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826

Toll free telephone number is 866-495-5651 or
NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

If you are from the media, please contact:

Ron Baker
Public Information, DTSC
(916) 324-3142 or
RBaker@dtsc.ca.gov

Where can I read the Proposed Removal Action Workplan?

You may review the Draft Removal Action Workplan, the CEQA Notice of Exemption, and other related documents at the DTSC website, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public and type in Sutter Creek to get the South Eureka Mine site information.

You may also read these documents at:
Sutter Creek Public Library, 35 Main Street, Sutter Creek CA 95685

Please call (209) 267-5489 for their hours.

You may review the full administrative record at the:

DTSC File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826-3200

Please call Bobbi Jensen at (916) 255-3779 to make the necessary arrangements.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at:
1-888-877-5378 (TDD).

Ask to be connected to Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding South Eureka Mine.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

To be added to the South Eureka Mine mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:

Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Dr., Sacramento CA 95826

Please print name and address clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Comment:

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.