

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## Draft Interim Measures Workplan for Specialized Processing, Inc. in El Cajon Public Comment Start

The Public Comment period has begun for the draft Interim Measures (IM) Workplan to clean up contaminated soil at the former Specialized Processing, Incorporated, facility (Site) at 581 South Marshall Avenue, El Cajon, California. The draft IM addresses soil-vapor that may impact neighboring apartments and houses east of the facility on Millar Avenue.

The draft IM Workplan describes in detail the environmental investigation, findings, and proposed interim remedy for contaminated soil. It was developed to alleviate potential health and safety risks to workers on Site and residents nearby until the final cleanup plan for the Site is developed.

DTSC is a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC is responsible for overseeing environmental investigations and cleanups at sites like the Specialized Processing, Inc. Site. This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup is Necessary
- Site History
- Environmental Investigation & Results
- Proposed Cleanup Plan – draft Interim Measures Workplan
- Safety Measures
- Cleanup Logistics
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- How You Can Participate
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact at DTSC for Information
- Next Steps

### Public Comment Period



**June 9<sup>th</sup> – July 11, 2016**

**A 30-day public comment period** is being held on the draft IM Workplan. **All comments must be postmarked or emailed by July 11, 2016 and sent to:**

Irena Edwards, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
E-mail:  
[Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov)

The Proposed Plan and other project related documents are available for review electronically at [www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov), and at the Information Repositories listed inside this Fact Sheet.

## Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There are chemicals in soil above DTSC's protective standards at the Specialized Processing site. Thus, DTSC requires cleanup to control the movement of chemicals into areas nearby. Cleanup will reduce or eliminate potential health risk to workers on Site and residents nearby. DTSC will oversee the proposed cleanup activities and ensure they are performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

## Site History

Specialized Processing, Inc. conducted aircraft and automotive parts cleaning, polishing, plating, anodizing, and painting for about 43 years and ceased operations on August 1, 2008. During routine activities, metals and cleaning solvents contaminated soil and groundwater at the site. The approximately one acre site has been cleared of structures, following a fire in 2015. The property is mostly covered with pavement.

## Environmental Investigations and Results

*Soil* – Subsurface investigations have been conducted and identified the solvents, PCE and TCE, in soil throughout the Site. Metals were also found in soil but were in a limited area below the former southern building's floor.

*Groundwater* – Site groundwater investigations found the solvents, PCE, and TCE in groundwater. Elevated metals were not detected in groundwater. Groundwater is about 5-20 feet below the ground surface and is **not** a source of drinking water. The PCE and TCE found in groundwater appears to be the source of soil-vapor detected in some residences east of the site. The detected soil vapor concentrations in residences did **not** indicate a serious health or safety problem.

## Proposed Cleanup Plan

- Removal of contaminated soil from an area about 10-foot by 14-foot, about 15-feet around a former parts cleaning tank. Following soil removal, chemicals to enhance in-situ oxidation of residual solvents would be placed in the excavation area. These chemicals will eliminate any solvents that may remain in the soil.

This would stop any further contamination of ground water at the Site. A trench, about 2 feet wide and 15 feet deep and 50 feet across would be dug in the direction of groundwater flow, just down gradient of the former southern building. A chemical oxidant would be placed in the lower 5-feet of this trench. This would be about 5-feet below the water table. The trench would then be backfilled with clean soil to the ground surface. This would treat groundwater off-site.

- Remaining building foundations were removed and the soil that extended above ground surface was smoothed in May. This was done to comply with the City of El Cajon's mandate to clear the property of all structures. Excavated soil was sampled and transported to an appropriate off-site treatment and/or disposal facility.
- A 2-inch thick cement cap would be constructed over exposed soil areas. This will stop residual contaminants in the soil from leaching into groundwater, and runoff from reaching anyone on or off-site. Groundwater monitoring will continue at the site and in downgradient monitoring wells to evaluate the progress of groundwater remediation until DTSC's cleanup goals are met.

## Safety Measures

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Maintain perimeter fencing for security.
- All work will be performed according to the approved Site Health and Safety Plan.
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property.
- If excessive dust or vapors are detected at the perimeter of the property, dust or vapor controls, will be employed. If necessary, work will stop until conditions improve.
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site.
- Truck tires will be brushed to remove soil and debris.
- Air monitoring will be done to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels.

## Cleanup Logistics

Truck traffic will avoid peak commute hours and trucks will not leave the site after 3:00 pm. Roughly 126 tons of contaminated soil will be excavated in former vapor degreaser location in the southern (plating) building.



Excavated soil will be loaded directly onto the trucks. It will take about 15 truckloads to remove this material from the facility.

Excavated soil will be characterized for disposal based on the results of testing. Most of the excavated soil will be classified as non-hazardous. It will be disposed of at the nearby class III Otay landfill operated by Republic Services. Any excavated soil classified as California hazardous waste will be taken to a facility that accepts hazardous waste in Coper Mountain, Arizona, also operated by Republic Services. Equipment used to move soil will be decontaminated before leaving the work area.

A map of the anticipated transportation route from the subject property to the disposal facility is enclosed. This route is mostly via highways I-8, CA-125, CA-54, and I-805 and schools, hospitals or other sensitive receptors, are not located along the short distances to and from these highways.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is a State law that requires a project's lead agency to consider and disclose potential adverse environmental impacts of its proposed actions before approving them. DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states the proposed interim cleanup activities (digging, excavating, cap installation, and monitoring) will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment.

## How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the draft Response Plan. **The 30-day public comment period starts June 9th and ends July 11, 2016. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by July 11, 2016, and sent to:**

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Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
E-mail: [Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov)  
(714) 484-5385

## Next Steps

DTSC will evaluate and respond to all public comments received on the draft Response Plan before approval. If approved, the cleanup would take two – five months. Work will take place between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. starting in summer 2016.

## Where to Find Site Documents

Copies of the draft IM Workplan, CEQA NOE and related project documents are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

### El Cajon Branch, San Diego County Library

201 E. Douglas  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
(619) 588-3718  
Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9:30am – 8 pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am – 5pm  
Sunday 12 pm – 5pm

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5336  
Hours: Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm  
Please contact Ms. Jone Barrio at the above number to make an appointment.

Site documents are also available for review at: [http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=71002226](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=71002226). A computer is available in the DTSC file room for public use. For more information about our department, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

All documents made available to the public by DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (e.g. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, and in accordance with state and federal laws. Please contact Marcia Rubin for assistance.

## DTSC Contacts:

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