

Fact Sheet  
July 2003

## Public Comment Period Begins For The Tracy Tire Fire Site Draft Remedial Action Plan



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC  
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

### TRACY, CALIFORNIA

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



#### INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet outlines proposed cleanup activities at the Tracy Tire Fire site (Site) located at 29425 South MacArthur Drive, Tracy, California. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the lead agency overseeing activities at the Site, is accepting public comment on a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and draft Negative Declaration during a public comment period. During the public comment period, DTSC will also hold a public meeting to accept written and verbal comments.

#### SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Tracy Tire Fire site (S.F. Royster Tire Disposal Facility), an unpermitted waste tire facility, was owned and operated by Mr. Silas Fred Royster for an undocumented period of time. An estimated seven million tires were illegally stored at the Site in conditions ranging from orderly piles of bundled tires to large piles of unbundled tires. Drums of used oil filters, old vehicles, trailers, and other miscellaneous debris were also stored at the Site.

On August 7, 1998, a grass fire started and ignited the tires. Local fire and police, the San Joaquin County Public Health Services, DTSC, California Air Resources Board, California Integrated Waste Management Board, and California Environmental Protection Agency worked together to conduct emergency response activities (e.g.

#### **Public Review and Comment Period**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is seeking review and comment on the draft Remedial Action Plan and proposed draft Negative Declaration for the Tracy Tire Fire site during a 30-day public comment period which runs from July 29, 2003 through August 29, 2003. A public meeting will be held on August 18, 2003 to accept comments on the draft RAP.

*The public meeting* will be held August 18, 2003, 6:00 p.m., at the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Ave. Tracy, California 95376.

*Written comments* must be postmarked no later August 29, 2003 and should be sent to: Chris Sherman, Site Mitigation Program, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826, (916) 255-3706, [csherman@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:csherman@dtsc.ca.gov).

#### **Information Repository**

Copies of the draft RAP, Negative Declaration and other Site-related documents are available for review at the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy, California 95376, (209) 831-4250 and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA, (916)255-3706.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

taking air samples) from the time the fire was discovered through August 10, 1998. However, emergency response activities did not include putting the fire out completely.

Once preliminary emergency response activities had been performed, the Federal, State, and local agencies involved determined that the best course of action to deal with the fire was to let it “burn itself out”.

This decision was based on several factors including the geography of the Site, and concern that putting water on the fire might generate excessive amounts of hazardous wastewater and in-turn, impact local groundwater. The involved agencies continued to monitor the Site until the fire, which steadily diminished over time, became small enough to be extinguished with foam and water in December 2000. Since that time, the Site has remained vacant.

From October 15 through December 13, 2001 field sampling activities were conducted to determine the impact on soil and groundwater quality at the Site due to the tire fire. Additionally, analytical data was gathered to determine the extent of contamination at the Site and to characterize waste for removal. Based on data collected during 2001, it was determined that surface soil was adversely affected by the tire fire and needed to be addressed. Data obtained during the field sampling activities is summarized in the “Tracy Tire Fire Site Removal Assessment Report” dated October 2002, and is available for public review at the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy, California 95376, (209) 831-4250.

In mid-March 2003, removal of surface debris (e.g. metal tire rims, oil filters, rusted automobiles and debris) was conducted. Debris removal did not include removing partially burned tires or any soil that appears to have been contaminated by the burned tires.

### **PROPOSED REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES**

Information obtained during previous sampling activities was analyzed and the DTSC determined that before characterization of the entire Site could be accomplished, an interim remedial action to address ash, soil impacted by the burned tires, and

pyrolytic oil needed to be conducted. The draft RAP outlines cleanup alternatives considered for the interim remedial action, and proposes one alternative as the most effective. The draft RAP is available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning July 29, 2003 through August 29, 2003. A public meeting to accept verbal and/or written comments on the draft RAP will be held on August 18, 2003 at the Tracy Public Library.

The evaluation criteria considered in selecting the interim remedial action for cleaning the Site includes: overall protection of human health and the environment; compliance with State and Federal requirements; long-term effectiveness and performance; reduction of toxicity, mobility, and volume through treatment; short-term effectiveness; implementability; cost; regulatory agency acceptance; and community acceptance. The initial screening processes identified five potentially viable remedial action alternatives for soil. The interim remedial action alternatives are as follows:

#### *#1) No Further Action*

In this alternative, all interim remedial actions would be discontinued. No remedial action would be taken at the Site except continued monitoring of the groundwater. This alternative could cause further impacts to Site groundwater.

#### *#2) Capping*

This alternative would involve capping the ash, burned material, and surface soil with an engineered earthen cap or asphalt. This interim remedial action alternative would mitigate or eliminate potential exposure pathways and significantly reduce the potential for contaminants to leach and affect groundwater quality. However, this alternative does not remove the source of contamination from the Site and would require long-term operations and maintenance of the cap and long-term monitoring of the groundwater to ensure protection to human health and the environment.

#### *#3) Excavation of Pyrolytic Oil and Metals-Affected Soil for Off-Site Disposal*

This interim remedial action alternative would include excavation of ash, burned material, and pyrolytic oil- and metals-affected soil for off-site disposal. This

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alternative will result in removal of ash, contaminated soil, and pyrolytic oil enabling the objective of proper characterization of the entire Site to occur in the future.

*#4) Excavation of Pyrolytic Oil and Metals-Affected Soil for Off-Site Disposal Following Stabilization of Metals-Affected Soil.*

This alternative includes excavation of ash, burned material, pyrolytic oil- and metals-affected soil. Soil containing pyrolytic oil would be directly loaded into trucks for off-site disposal. Ash and metals-affected soil would be temporarily stockpiled on Site. The stockpiled soil would then be mechanically mixed with a cement based compound to stabilize the metals in the soil. The treated soil would be transported to an appropriate off-site disposal facility.

*#5) Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Pyrolytic Oil-Affected Soil and Excavation, On-Site Stabilization, and Replacement of Metals-Affected Soil.*

This alternative would involve excavating the pyrolytic oil-affected soil for off-site disposal and excavating metals-affected soil for on-site treatment and replacement. The treatment would involve mechanically mixing the affected soil with a cement base compound to stabilize the soil. Treated soil would then be redeposited at the Site.

**CHOSEN REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVE**

Alternative #3 – Excavation of Pyrolytic Oil and Metals-Affected Soil for Off-Site Disposal, is consistent with criteria for choosing an acceptable cleanup alternative and is recommended as the best interim remedial action method for addressing removal of ash, contaminated soil, and pyrolytic oil so that full Site characterization can occur.

**DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN**

The draft RAP, which proposes an interim removal action of Excavation of Pyrolytic Oil and Metals-Affected Soil for Off-Site Disposal, is available for public review and comment from July 29 through August 29, 2003. A public meeting to accept written and verbal comments will begin at 6:00 p.m.

on August 18, 2003 at the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy, California 95376, (209) 831-4250. The comment period is held so that the public's concerns are considered before DTSC makes a final decision to either approve, deny, or amend the draft RAP and Negative Declaration.

A draft Negative Declaration is a component of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA states that the lead regulatory agency must conduct an initial study to determine if a proposed cleanup will have a significant effect on the environment. The Negative Declaration states that the proposed interim remedy action will not negatively impact the environment.

**FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination to either approve or amend the draft RAP and Negative Declaration. At the same time, anyone who submitted either verbal or written comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the public comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. Additional copies of the Response to Comments will be available in the repositories that have been established for the Site. A fact sheet/flier announcing DTSC's final decision will also be mailed to the Site specific mailing list.

**CONTACTS**

If you would like additional copies of this fact sheet or more information concerning the Site, please contact:

Mr. Chris Sherman, Project Manager  
Site Mitigation Program, Department of Toxic  
Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826, (916) 255-3706  
[csherman@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:csherman@dtsc.ca.gov).

Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participant Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3575  
[hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov)

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Or

Mr. Ron Baker, Public Information Officer  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 324-3142  
[rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **GLOSSARY**

Draft Negative Declaration: A draft document issued by the regulatory agency when an initial environmental study reveals no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have any significant effect on the environment. Must meet the requirement set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act.

Draft Remedial Action Plan (draft RAP): A plan in draft form that outlines a specific program leading to cleanup of a contaminated site.

Metals: A group of elements that can be toxic at relatively low concentrations.

Pyrolytic Oil: Oil produced by pyrolysis.

Pyrolysis: Chemical decomposition caused by heat.

### ***Hearing Impaired***

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Chris Sherman at 916-255-3706 regarding the Tracy Tire Fire site.

### ***Meeting Accessibility***

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Heidi Nelson at (916) 255-3575.

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***Mailing List Coupon***

If you have any comments concerning **Tracy Tire Fire site** or if you would like to be put on the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Heidi Nelson, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail:

