



**EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES  
FOR THE 1998 REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN  
OPERABLE UNIT 2, PG&E MARTIN SERVICE CENTER  
Daly City/Brisbane, California**

**Fact Sheet**

**August 31, 2000**

**INTRODUCTION**

The California Environmental Protection Agency, **Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)** is distributing this fact sheet to inform the community about a change to the 1998 **Remedial Action Plan (RAP)** for **Operable Unit 2** at Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Martin Service Center in Daly City/Brisbane, California. This fact sheet further clarifies information provided in a recent fact sheet. Additionally, this fact sheet satisfies requirements in federal law that an **Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)** be prepared by the lead agency when differences in the scope, performance, or cost of a remedy adopted by the **RAP** occur, but do not fundamentally alter the remedy selected.

The PG&E Martin Service Center, **Operable Unit 2 RAP** was finalized on July 20, 1998. The recommended remedial action presented in the **RAP** included ongoing groundwater monitoring and land-use restrictions, as well as, management of soils generated from both the joint Daly City and Brisbane **Storm Drain Project** and the construction of a groundwater interceptor trench along the east side of Martin Service Center. However, more soil was excavated than was anticipated in **the Storm Drain Project**. These soils were to be managed as part of the **RAP** on the PG&E Martin Service Center yard. PG&E has proposed to haul off a portion of the additional soils to a landfill designed to accept this type of waste. Because the approved **RAP** anticipated that all of the contaminated soil

could be managed onsite, disposal of the excess represents a "significant difference" from that **RAP**.

**DTSC** invites public comment on the ESD to the 1998 **RAP**. Interested parties may comment on the **ESD** from September 7 to September 18, 2000. In addition, this fact sheet presents an updated schedule for the completion of the soil and groundwater remediation efforts at the Martin Service Center site.

(Terms in **bold print** are defined in the glossary on page 5)

**DTSC INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT**

DTSC invites the public to comment on the Explanation of Significant Differences on the 1998 Remedial Action Plan for PG&E Martin Service Center OU-2. The comment period runs from September 7 to September 18, 2000. Your comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than September 18, 2000. Please send them to:

Karen Toth  
Project Supervisor  
DTSC  
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200  
Berkeley, California 94710  
e-mail: [ktoth@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ktoth@dtsc.ca.gov)

## SITE HISTORY

PG&E's Martin Service Center is an electric substation and a facility for maintaining utility materials and equipment. It consists of three parts, the Daly City Yard, the Brisbane Yard and the Brisbane Annex. From 1906 to 1913, part of the property was occupied by the Martin Gas Plant, which made gas for lighting, heating, cooking and for fueling electric generators.

Two by-products of this gas-making process were lampblack (a finely-powdered carbon) and tars (thick sticky substances made up of hydrocarbons similar to roofing tar). Both lampblack and tars contain **PAHs, and volatile organic hydrocarbons (VOCs)**. In 1991, **DTSC** and PG&E entered into a Consent Agreement to investigate and cleanup contamination at the Martin Service Center. PG&E implemented the agreement. The site was split into two Operable Units. Remediation of Operable Unit 1 (OU1) was completed in 1994.

**Operable Unit 2 (OU2)** consists of the Brisbane Yard and Brisbane Annex. Following a public comment period and meeting, the **RAP** for **OU2** was approved by **DTSC** on July 20, 1998. The recommended remedial action presented in the **RAP** included ongoing groundwater monitoring and land-use restrictions, as well as, management of soils generated from both the joint Daly City and Brisbane **Storm Drain Project** and the construction of a groundwater interceptor trench along the east side of Martin Service Center. In the **RAP**, the soil management activities primarily included stabilization of soils containing greater than 10 parts per million (ppm) carcinogenic PAHs.

The soil was to be stabilized by making it into asphalt. For soil containing less than 10 ppm carcinogenic **PAHs**, the **RAP** called for grading the materials onsite and recontouring to ensure better drainage.

Based on previous sampling, the **RAP** estimated that the **Storm Drain Project** would generate approximately 8,500 cubic yards of soil. Further, the **RAP** anticipated that about three-quarters of the soil (approximately 6,650 cubic yards) would contain less than 10 parts per million **PAHs**. Finally, the **RAP** estimated that the remaining soils (about 1,850 cubic yards) with contamination greater than 10 ppm would be recycled into asphalt and be used as a cap over the newly graded and contoured area.

## EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

The **Storm Drain Project** generated nearly twice as much soil as was anticipated. Approximately one-third of the additional soils can be managed at the site, which means that two thirds of the additional soils could not be managed at the Martin Service Center. Because the volume of excess soil is about the same as the volume of stockpiled soil containing greater than 10 ppm carcinogenic PAHs, PG&E proposes to haul off the soils with the highest concentrations (See Table 1). In the end, this means that the soil that is left onsite will contain less than 10 ppm carcinogenic **PAHs**, and that it will be covered with asphaltic material. No contaminated soils will be stabilized using asphalt. Other aspects of the remedy selected remain unchanged.

Specifically, PG&E proposes to haul off the soil containing greater than 10 parts per million (ppm) carcinogenic **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)** to a landfill designed to accept this type of material. That facility, Forward Landfill, is located in Manteca, California. The off-site transportation and disposal of some contaminated soil is consistent with the resolution of environmental impact issues addressed in the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** document prepared for this project in 1998. Off-site transportation and disposal of this soil will cost approximately \$250,000.

Table 1			
	Total cubic yards	Less than 10 ppm	More than 10 ppm
Expected in RAP	8,500	6,650	1,850
Actually Excavated	17,000		
Managed onsite	11,500	11,500	0
Hauled offsite	5,500	0	5,500

With **DTSC's** approval, during late-September, PG&E would haul off contaminated soil using two proposed trucking routes. The primary route will be through the main gate of the PG&E facility, located on Geneva Avenue, to Bayshore Boulevard. From there the trucks would travel south on Bayshore Boulevard to Highway 101, and then travel on highways to Manteca where the landfill is located. A secondary route would exit the Martin Service Center through a gate located on Main Street, where the trucks would travel east on Main Street to Bayshore Boulevard, with the remaining route as that described above. The secondary route would be used if there were construction or impediments to traffic along Geneva Avenue.

As required by the Air Monitoring Plan, PG&E's contractors will conduct continuous air monitoring for dust and **PAHs** while contaminated soils are handled. The soil in each truck will be covered with tarps before leaving the PG&E site. In addition, water sprays will be used to control dust, and the truck tires will be washed before leaving Martin Service Center. Approximately 40 truckloads of soil per day will be leaving Martin Service Center for a period of about two weeks. This level of truck traffic is within the limits defined for the project in the **CEQA** document. All work will be conducted between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Considering the new information of the volume of soils needing to be handled and the changes that have been made to the selected remedy, DTSC believes the**

**remedy remains protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal, State and local requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, and is cost effective.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

A formal comment period is not required for a **ESD**. However, we are interested in hearing from you if you have comments or concerns. If you wish to submit written comments on this **ESD**, your comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than September 18, 2000. Please send them to:

Karen Toth  
 Project Supervisor  
 DTSC  
 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200  
 Berkeley, California 94710  
 e-mail: ktoth@dtsc.ca.gov

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE UPDATE**

CH2M Hill, the contractor for PG&E, began work again on July 24<sup>th</sup> to finish the soil and groundwater remediation portions of this construction project. Based on a preliminary schedule provided to **DTSC**, PG&E anticipates completing the groundwater interceptor trench construction in August and early September, grading and placing fill with the soil containing less than 10 ppm carcinogenic **PAHs** during September, and placing asphalt chip seal and asphalt concrete in October. Construction on this project should be completed during October.

### **Anuncio**

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like more information about the PG&E Martin Service Center Site, please call Karen Toth, DTSC, Project Supervisor at (510) 540-3834 or Rachelle Maricq, DTSC Public Participation Coordinator, at (510) 540-3910.

### **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

This ESD and the supporting documentation, which are part of the Administrative Record for the site, as well as other documents relating to the PG&E Martin Service Center are available for public review at the following locations:

Daly City Public Library  
Bayshore Branch  
2960 Geneva Avenue  
Daly City, California  
(415) 467-1515

Brisbane Public Library  
250 Visitacion Avenue  
Brisbane, California  
(415) 467-2060

Midway Village  
Housing Office  
47 Midway Drive  
Daly City, California  
(415) 467-4240

The full Administrative Record for this Site is available at:

File Room  
DTSC  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94710  
(510) 540-3800 - call for appointment

### ***Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals***

TDD users can obtain additional information about the PG&E Martin Service Center Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Rachelle Maricq at (510) 540-3910.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## **BAYSHORE STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Storm Drain Project):**

A Project constructed by cities to upgrade drainage and control flooding in the area. The Storm Drain Project has been completed. Soils excavated from the PG&E property during the Storm Drain Project will be handled under the RAP.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

The California law that establishes a framework for policy decisions regarding actions that may have significant effect on the environment. All state and local agencies are required to comply with CEQA prior to taking discretionary actions.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC):**

A department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the investigation and remediation of sites like the Martin Service Center.

## **EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES (ESD):**

A document or fact sheet which describes differences in the scope, performance, or cost of a remedy adopted by the RAP occur, but do not fundamentally alter the remedy selected.

## **OPERABLE UNIT 2 (OU2):**

The second phase of remediation at PG&E's Martin Service Center. The area is comprised of the Brisbane Yard and Brisbane Yard Annex. Remediation work was conducted for the first phase, or Operable Unit 1, at the Martin Service Center in 1993-94.

## **POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHS):**

Chemical compounds formed when organic materials such as coal, oil, fuel, or even foods are not completely burned. PAHs are found in lampblack, a by-product of the historical gas manufacturing process. Lampblack itself is often used as a coloring agent in ink and paints. PAHs are also found in a wide variety of other materials, including diesel exhaust, roofing tars, asphalt, fireplace smoke and soot, petroleum products, and some shampoos. Some PAHs are suspected of causing cancer in humans. Other PAHs may cause other health effects if people are exposed to relatively high concentrations of the chemicals. PAHs tend to move slowly in the environment because they stick to soil and do not easily dissolve in water.

## **REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP):**

A plan approved by DTSC that outlines a specific program leading to the remediation of a contaminated site. Once the Draft Remedial Action Plan is prepared, a public meeting is held and comments from the public are solicited for a period of no less than 30 days. After the public comment period has ended, and public comments have been responded to in writing, the DTSC approves the final remedy for the site (the Final Remedial Action Plan).

## **VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs):**

Chemical compounds found in a number of products including solvents, degreasers, nail polish, paint thinners, and gasoline. VOCs can also be found, in tars, a by-product of the historical gas-manufacturing process. Some VOCs are known to cause cancer in humans. VOCs tend to move easily through soil and groundwater, but when exposed to air they quickly evaporate.

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