



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of
the Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2009

Cleanup Proposal for Foresthill Site Available for Public Review and Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is opening a public comment period and is accepting comments from April 8, 2009 to May 8, 2009 on a proposed cleanup called the draft final Removal Action Workplan or RAW for property at 22990 Foresthill Road, Foresthill, California. The comment period was originally scheduled to run from August 22, 2008 to September 23, 2008, but was delayed.

The site ([see map on page 2](#)) is made up of three parcels; a 17.6-acre parcel located at the highest elevation and adjacent to Foresthill Road; a 28.3-acre parcel that is south and west of the 17.6 acre parcel; and, a 32.4 acre parcel that is located south of the 17.6-acre parcel.

This fact sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why cleanup is necessary
- History and operations at the site
- Proposed cleanup options
- Safety & dust control during cleanup
- Proposed transportation route for trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next steps
- Where to find documents
- Who to contact for information

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of arsenic can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that the owner prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil to protect the future occupants of the property. DTSC will oversee the removal action and ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

April 8, 2009 to May 8, 2009

Your participation is encouraged. The draft final RAW and other related project documents for this site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 4. DTSC will make a final decision after all public comment has been reviewed and considered. Written comments must be postmarked by 5 P.M. on **May 8, 2009** and should be addressed to Mr. Randy Adams, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, California, 95826. Comments may be submitted by email to Mr. Adams at radams@dtsc.ca.gov.



History and Operations at the Site

Mine spoils are what is left behind from miners excavating land for minerals. When miners excavated rock and sediment from the ground, they usually dumped it outside the adit (an entrance bored into the side of a hill). Rocks and sediment removed from the adit contained fragments of the natural rock and sediment formations encountered during the digging process. These piles of rock fragments and sediments contained naturally occurring arsenic.

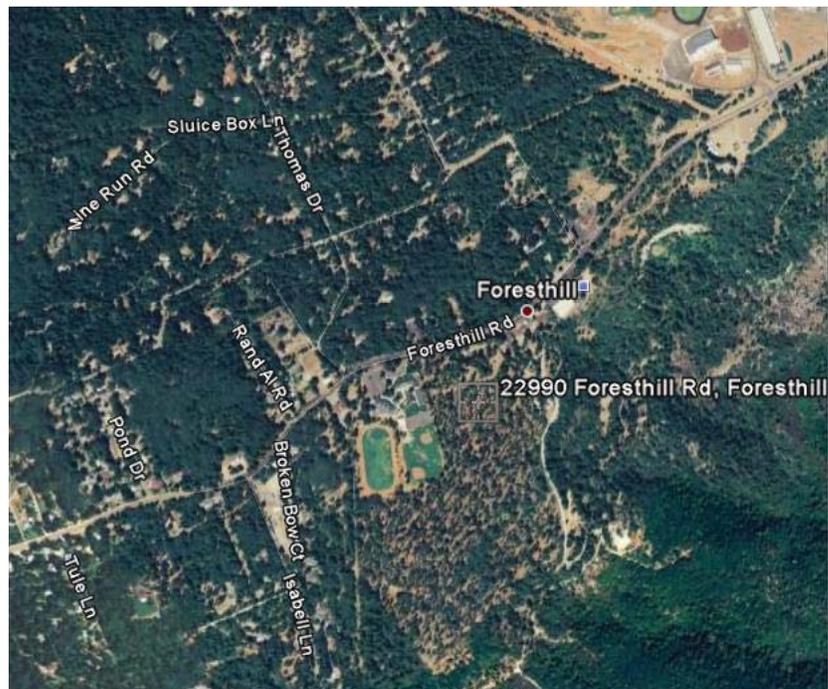
Arsenic concentrations are higher than normal in the mine spoils because there is more surface area around a small chip of rock or broken up sediments than the massive rock formation or tightly packed sediment formation. This increased surface area and exposure to air results in more chemical breakdown of the rock at the site.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The draft final RAW summarizes previous investigations and outlines available cleanup alternatives. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to be implemented, and cost. The following cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1: *Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Arsenic Contaminated Mine Spoils, and Closure of Adits with Concrete Plugs.* Mine spoils contaminated with arsenic would be placed on trucks and transported off-site to the Ostrom Road landfill located in Wheatland, California. Adits would be sealed with concrete plugs.

Alternative 2: *Assignment of Mine Spoils Areas as Recreational and Closure of Adits with Concrete Plugs.* A fence would be erected around arsenic contaminated mine spoils (and a sign posted saying the fenced area contains historical mine spoils). In addition, a land use



Forest Hill Site
Map Not to Scale

covenant limiting future use of the area for recreational purposes only would be imposed. Adits would be plugged with concrete.

The draft final RAW proposes Alternative 1, ***Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Arsenic Contaminated Mine Spoils, and Closure of Adits with Concrete Plugs*** as the best alternative to clean up the site.

If this alternative is approved, excavated soil would be loaded into trucks and transported to the offsite disposal facility. Soil in the excavated area would be tested to ensure that all of the contaminated soil had been removed. After it has been determined that contaminated soil had been adequately removed, the excavated areas would be filled with clean soil and then graded.

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the public comment period before making a final decision to approve, amend or deny the selected cleanup alternative.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

A licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor would remove contaminated soil from the site. Soil removal activities would occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. and last about seven to ten days.

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

- Install temporary fencing for security;
- Drive all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property;
- Spray work areas with clean water to control dust;
- Secure trucks with covers before they leave the site; and,
- Monitor the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels.

Proposed Transportation Route For Trucks

About 200 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be removed and taken off-site for disposal. It will take about 15 truckloads to remove the contaminated soil from the site. Trucks would travel on Foresthill Road, Interstate 80, Highway 193, Highway 65, South Beal Road, and Ostrom Road. Signage (e.g. “Trucks Entering Roadway”) will be placed at points where trucks enter and exit the site along Foresthill Road. Trucks will be staged to avoid impacts on the local streets and timed to avoid rush traffic hours. A maximum of 8 trucks per day will be allowed.

Trucks will not enter the Foresthill Divide Middle School zone during drop off and pick up times between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. when school is in session.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC has determined that the project qualifies as a Class 30 categorical exemption project (under the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15300.2 and 15330) and is, therefore, exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for approving the draft final RAW. DTSC has determined that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant effect on human health and the environment.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft final RAW prior to final approval. DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments (RTC) document. The RTC lists all of the comments received during the comment period and DTSC’s responses to those comments.

The RTC will be mailed to everyone who made a comment (provided they give their name and address). In addition, the RTC will be available for review at the information repository established for this project. If you did not make a comment during the comment period but would like a copy of the RTC, please contact Mr. Randy Adams at (916) 255-3591.

Where to Find the Documents

The draft final RAW and other related documents for the Foresthill site are available for review at the following repositories:

Foresthill Library
24580 Main Street
Foresthill, California, 95631
Please call (530) 367-2785 for days and hours of operation.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Please call (916) 255-3758 to setup an appointment to review the files Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You may also view documents on our website at <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>. Once at the website, type "Foresthill" in the "City" line item, scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Get Report"; this Report will list all projects located in Foresthill. Select the "Report" for the "Foresthill Robinson Property". Lastly, click the link for "Community Involvement". Draft documents available for review will be listed.

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Mr. Randy Adams
DTSC Project Manager
(916) 255-3591
e-mail: radams@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Heidi Nelson
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3575
(866) 495-5651
e-mail: hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Ms. Claudia Loomis
DTSC Public Information Officer
(916) 255-6578
e-mail: cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Mr. Randy Adams at (916) 255-3591 regarding the Foresthill site.

**COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON
FOR THE FORESTHILL SITE DRAFT FINAL REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN**

You may use this sheet to:

- send us your comments
- be added to or taken off the mailing list

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address.
All written comments must be postmarked no later than May 8, 2009. Please send this form to:

Mr. Randy Adams
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

You may also email this same information to: radams@dtsc.ca.gov

- Please take me off the mailing list
 Please add me to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

E-Mail Address (if any): _____

Phone number (optional) _____

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

To learn more about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.