

Fact Sheet, January 2011



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Our mission 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

Draft Removal Action Workplan Former Selma Manufactured Gas Plant 2139 Sylvia Street, Selma, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this fact sheet to inform the community about an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed cleanup plan (called a draft Removal Action Workplan or draft RAW) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) former manufactured gas plant site located at 2139 Sylvia Street in Selma, California. The site is currently used by PG&E as a service center. PG&E is cleaning up this site voluntarily as part of a company-wide program to address impacts from historical operations of manufactured gas plant sites.

Environmental investigations found elevated concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), lead and cyanide in some areas of the site. Groundwater beneath the site contains low levels of TPH. PG&E is proposing a cleanup approach that includes excavation of site soils containing chemicals related to past gas manufacturing activities, backfilling these areas with clean fill, and ongoing monitoring of groundwater.



Current photo of Selma Service Center from Sylvia Street

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD JANUARY 26, 2011 to FEBRUARY 28, 2011

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the draft Removal Action Workplan (draft RAW) and related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents for the former Selma Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period beginning **January 26, 2011**, and ending **February 28, 2011**. All comments must be postmarked by **February 28, 2011**. A postage paid postcard is enclosed for mailing your comments. All emailed comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same day. Please submit your comments to:

Kevin Shaddy - DTSC Project Manager
1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611-0522
kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov -- (559) 297-3929



Site Description and History

The site is approximately three acres and is currently used as a service center for PG&E's work crews. The site is entirely paved and fenced and includes two buildings, a parking lot, and a storage area.

From 1889 to 1930, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) operated in the northern half of the site. This gas plant converted coal and crude oil into gas for the lighting, cooking, and heating needs of local residents. When natural gas became available in the area the plant was dismantled and most of the MGP structures were removed from the site by 1942; however, some residues of the gas-making process remain on-site.

Site Investigations

Since 1986, a series of environmental investigations have been conducted at the site. Over 200 samples of soil, groundwater and soil gas (the air in spaces between soil particles) were collected from in and around the site. Results of soil samples indicate that soil in the west and northeast area of the site - the area where the old gas plant was located - contains old gas plant residues including PAHs and TPH. Some lead and cyanide was also found within the areas of PAH and TPH residues. Soil in the central area of the site is impacted by PCBs that are related to historic service center operations. Soil impacts are generally found at a depth of one to 15 feet below the ground's surface, with the majority of

impacts at a depth of one to five feet. Samples of groundwater indicate that shallow groundwater at the site contains low levels of TPH. However, this is not a drinking water source. Drinking water for the community is provided by the California Water Service Company and has not been impacted.

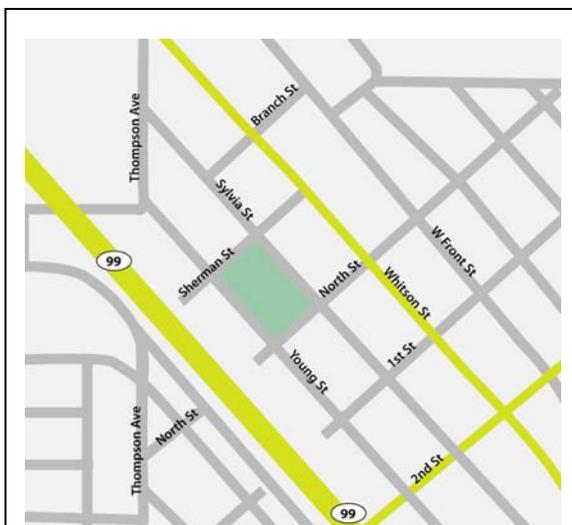
Human Health Risk Assessment

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA) shows that none of the chemicals present at the site pose a significant health risk to the on-site workers or nearby populations. The site does not pose an immediate health concern to employees or community members since MGP waste is located beneath the asphalt parking lot, sidewalks and buildings and contact with the soil is unlikely. However, PG&E has chosen to clean up the site to allow for unrestricted land use, to the greatest degree possible. In order to do this, DTSC has determined that PAHs and TPH in the soil would require some form of cleanup if the site is redeveloped at a later date for residential purposes. Cleanup of the PAHs and TPH will also remove the lead and cyanide within the cleanup areas.

Draft Cleanup Plan Objective

The objective of a draft cleanup plan otherwise known as the draft RAW is to summarize and evaluate the nature and extent of impacts at the site and to identify a preferred cleanup approach, or alternative, which prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. Cleanup alternatives are evaluated based on a variety of factors including effectiveness, ability to be implemented, regulatory agency and public acceptance, and cost.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, modify, or deny a draft RAW, the draft RAW is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments are reviewed and considered before the decision on the draft RAW is made.



Site Location Map

Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated

Four cleanup alternatives were evaluated for the site, as summarized below:

1. **No Action** - This alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline against which other cleanup alternatives can be compared. This alternative would involve no cleanup action and the site would remain in its current condition.
2. **Institutional Controls** – With this alternative, contaminated soil would not be treated or removed from the site. Institutional controls, such as a deed restriction, would be applied to the site to limit future land uses and ensure that the paving and other structures that limit contact with contaminated soil remain in place. This alternative also allows for continued monitoring of groundwater.
3. **Shallow Excavation** – This alternative includes the excavation of approximately 8,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil from a depth of one to ten feet from all accessible areas of the site. The excavated soil would be transported off-site for disposal at a landfill and excavated areas would be backfilled with clean soil. Groundwater would continue to be monitored to ensure that levels of chemicals are naturally declining over time.
4. **Full Excavation** – This alternative includes the excavation and off-site disposal of both shallow and deeper soils. Between 17,000 and 21,000 cubic yards of soil would be excavated from a depth of one to 18 feet. The excavated soil would be transported off-site for disposal at a landfill and excavated areas would be backfilled with clean soil. Groundwater would continue to be monitored to ensure that levels of chemicals are naturally declining over time.

Recommended Cleanup Alternative – Full Excavation

Based on evaluation of the cleanup alternatives, alternative 4, full excavation is the preferred remedial alternative identified in the draft RAW. The excavated soil would be transported off-site for disposal at an appropriately permitted facility. The site would be backfilled with clean material

and capped with asphalt to restore the site to existing conditions. Implementation of this alternative would return the site to unrestricted land use, offering long-term protection of the environment and the surrounding community.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Performing an underground utility survey to identify all piping and other underground features;
- Removal and demolition of asphalt paving within areas of the site to be excavated;
- Phased removal of between 17,000 to 21,000 cubic yards (600 to 950 truckloads) of soil and asphalt from depths ranging between one and 18 feet;
- Placement of excavated soil in a truck and/or bin for off-site disposal;
- Backfill and compaction of excavated areas with clean, imported soil;
- Restoration of all removed paving; and
- Cleanup and restoration of all related structures and work areas.

In addition, project controls designed to protect the surrounding community will be implemented during cleanup activities and include the following:

- A site-specific health and safety plan will be prepared to guide all remediation work;
- An environmental project manager will be on-site daily to monitor and approve all work;
- Dust and odor suppression activities will be performed and may include installation of special fencing, limiting the size of excavated areas for easy management, spraying water onto soil and work areas and using an on-site misting system, stopping work that generates dust on very windy days, covering soil piles, covering all trucks leaving the site, and daily street sweeping and site cleanup;
- Measures to limit noise from construction will be taken including working only during hours allowed by the city and keeping noise levels below city-allowed decibel levels; and
- Noise and airborne dust monitoring will be conducted during all excavation activities and throughout the daytime work schedule.

Next Steps

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document. This document will list the comments received and how they were considered prior to making a final decision on the draft RAW. The Response to Comments will be placed in the information repositories established for the site.

If the draft RAW is approved, soil excavation activities will likely begin by early 2012. Excavation and restoration activities would last about 4 months and will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Trucks transporting soil to and from the site will only use city-approved truck routes. The most likely route will exit the site by turning left (southeast) onto Young Street, turn right (southwest) onto 2nd Street, and continue less than one block to the Interstate 99 Freeway on-ramp.

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have significant impacts on the environment.

Where to Find Site Documents

DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAW, NOE, and other site-related documents which are available at the information repositories listed below:

Fresno Public Library, Selma Branch
2200 Selma Street, Selma, California 93662
(559) 896-3393

DTSC - File Room
1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-3929
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - Monday - Friday

All documents made available to the public by the DTSC can be made available in alternative format (i.e. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law. Please contact Christina Fu in the for more information section.

EnviroStor Database: Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets, and other site-related information are available online at DTSC's EnviroStor website:
<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>

For More Information

For more information about the draft cleanup plan or to be added to the site mailing list please contact the following DTSC representatives:

For questions about the cleanup, please contact:

Kevin Shaddy,
DTSC Project Manager
1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611-0522
Email: kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov
Office Phone: (559) 297-3929

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact:

Christina Fu,
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
Email: cfu@dtsc.ca.gov
Toll-Free: (866) 495-5651 (press 4 twice)
Office Phone: (714) 484-5488
TTY/TDD/STS users dial 711 (for the California Relay Service)

For media related inquiries, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia,
DTSC Public Information Officer
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
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Office Phone: (818) 717-6573