



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



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet #10, October 2009

Ascon Landfill Draft Interim Removal Measure Workplan and Mitigated Negative Declaration Available for Public Comment

A proposed interim cleanup plan to remove and dispose, or, if feasible, recycle tarry and oily waste at the Ascon Landfill Site will soon be available for public review and comment. The proposed interim cleanup plan, called the draft Interim Removal Measure (IRM) Workplan was developed specifically for the 38-acre site located at the southwest corner of Magnolia Street and Hamilton Avenue in Huntington Beach. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared because the proposed removal activities will not have an adverse environmental impact. This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary & Site Overview
- Cleanup Orders & the 2005 Emergency Action Taken
- Studies Conducted at the Site
- Interim Removal Measure Workplan Proposed for 2010
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Regulatory Agencies With Oversight Roles & How You Can Participate
- Next Steps & Who to Contact for More Information
- Where To Find Project Documents

OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT - OCTOBER 14, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Edison High School Multi Purpose Room

21400 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92646-6306

You are encouraged to attend our informal Open House to discuss site information, proposed IRM Workplan and the draft MND. This is an opportunity to review proposed activities before the formal public comment period begins (see below). DTSC staff and other representatives will be available to meet and discuss site concerns with you. Please join us to learn more about this project in your community.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT IRM WORKPLAN & MND

OCTOBER 22 THROUGH NOVEMBER 23, 2009

Beginning October 22nd, the draft IRM Workplan, draft MND and other related project documents will be available for public review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 4. We will consider and respond to all public comments received during the public comment period before implementing field work. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than November 23, 2009, and sent to:** Mr. Safouh Sayed, DTSC Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, E-mail: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov.





Why Cleanup Treatment Is Necessary

The Ascon Landfill site poses no immediate health risk to the public because there are no offsite exposures to site contaminants. However, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has determined there are a number of chemicals present from past operations at the site that are above DTSC's protective standards. Thus, DTSC requires that an overall cleanup plan be developed and implemented for the entire site to ensure long-term public health and safety.

DTSC has previously investigated and overseen several specific response actions at the site. To further investigate the nature and extent of contamination at the site, DTSC is currently proposing the removal of tarry and oily waste from the site as an interim removal measure. This removal will also help determine an appropriate long-term site-wide cleanup. DTSC will continue to oversee cleanup actions and ensure work is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Site Overview

The site was owned by the Garrish Brothers from 1938 to 1950 and by the Steverson Brothers from 1950 to 1984, and was operating as a permitted landfill during that time. In its earliest years, Huntington Beach had not yet developed in the southeast district of the city, and this area was comprised primarily of agricultural and oil production uses. Industrial and oil field wastes were disposed at the landfill from 1938 to 1971. After 1971, construction debris was disposed at the landfill until it was closed in 1984.

The site contains various types of liquid and solid waste in buried pits, surface piles of concrete, rebar, and other construction debris and open

and buried lagoons (ponds). There are five visible lagoons (referred to as Lagoons 1 through 5) covering about 30% of the site, one covered pit (referred to as Pit F), and seven former pits that are no longer visible (three in the northwest corner and four in the southeast corner of the site).

For safety and security, the perimeter of the site is fenced. Also, the surface pits and lagoons with liquid or semi-liquid materials have fencing, synthetic covers, and/or wildlife deterrent apparatus. There are regular field and security inspections as part of the site's current maintenance. The site has undergone several changes of ownership and environmental investigations since 1984. In 2003, DTSC and some of the Ascon Landfill site Responsible Parties (RPs) entered into a Consent Order for the site's cleanup (see Cleanup Orders below).

Cleanup Orders

As part of the cleanup process, DTSC conducted a search of historical records to identify businesses or parties that used the landfill during its 46-year operation. A number of the companies identified by the State of California as among those having used the site are cooperating with DTSC for the remediation of the site. These companies are referred to as the RPs and are funding the site's cleanup, under a State Consent Order signed in 2003. In addition, DTSC issued a parallel unilateral order against other RPs. No public money is being used for the cleanup.

2005 Emergency Action Taken

In 2005, the site's earthen berms were over 40-years old and not professionally engineered when constructed by earlier owners. At that time, DTSC required an Emergency Action to strengthen the northern earthen berm and to mitigate potential seepage in the event of heavy rains, such as the record-breaking rains that occurred during the winter of 2004-2005. In addition to making the site and neighborhood safer, the hands-on experience from the work performed during the 2005 Emergency Action will be applied to future work (e.g., odor control, excavation and trucking procedures).

Studies Conducted at the Site

A Feasibility Study was approved by DTSC in 2001. After study, it was determined that additional information was needed. Further investigations were implemented by the RPs, including recent groundwater studies and

information from the 2005 Emergency Action. DTSC approved a Revised Feasibility Study (RFS) in 2007. The RFS reflects additional information collected since 2003. The RFS includes groundwater in addition to soil/waste as studied media and evaluates technically feasible remedial alternatives that meet the goal of protecting public health and the environment.

Interim Removal Measure Workplan Proposed for 2010

The proposed Interim Removal Measure (IRM) planned for 2010 at the Ascon Landfill site includes removal and disposal, or, if feasible, recycling of the tarry materials from two interior lagoons in the southwest zone of the Ascon site that received oil production waste during the landfill's operation. The purpose of this action is to enable assessment of the materials underneath the tarry materials in Lagoons 1 and 2 (see figure). As a result of the Landfill's history of receiving asphalt, concrete and other construction debris after it stopped receiving oil production waste, it is expected there are materials of unknown size and composition in and under the lagoons. A more complete assessment of Lagoons 1 and 2 will allow for an informed remedial construction effort during the final remedy in a manner that is protective of public health and safety and the environment.

The maximum volume of material to be removed is 70,000 cubic yards, inclusive of any additives needed to dry the tarry materials for transport. The daily maximum number of trucks visiting the site for export of materials and import of drying additives, if needed, is 70 trucks per day. This is similar to the truck activity that occurred in the 2005 Emergency Action. It is estimated that a total of approximately 5,000 import and export truck trips would be needed to complete the IRM. Trucks will be lined, loaded, covered, brushed clean (without water) and visually inspected before leaving the site. The exit area will be staffed with a flagman to ensure traffic safety.

It is expected there may be periodic odor from the oil production waste, although this is not a health risk. Air quality, dust and odor will be closely monitored during the work. Dust and odor suppressants will be applied as needed. Air monitoring stations will be placed around the perimeter of the site. Additionally, air quality technicians with hand-held monitors will take readings directly in the work areas.

IRM field work is anticipated to begin in the first half of 2010 and continue for about 8 months. Work is expected to occur Mondays through Saturdays, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. Truck trips will be limited to entering and leaving the site between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm and trucks will not be allowed to line up or park on nearby city streets. Hauling activities for the exporting of tarry materials will be limited to Mondays through Fridays, with the majority of trucks departing the site prior to noon. The haul route on municipal streets will be approved by the City of Huntington Beach.

California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC is required by CEQA to review environmental activities for the possibility of impacts, before approving the project. DTSC has prepared a MND for the proposed IRM. Under CEQA, the MND evaluates potential impacts of the planned remedial action and proposes mitigation measures. The draft IRM Workplan includes a transportation plan, air monitoring plan, and a health and safety plan to further protect health and safety.

Regulatory Agencies With Oversight Roles

DTSC is the lead agency for direction and oversight for the Ascon Landfill site. In addition to DTSC's lead, a number of regulatory and government agencies provide input and oversight. Besides DTSC's lead role, other agencies that provide ongoing input or permitting for the project are:

- California Coastal Commission
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board
- City of Huntington Beach

DTSC has previously contacted environmental health agencies and local elected officials to share public health concerns that have been communicated to the DTSC. DTSC encourages those with specific public health concerns to contact the Orange County Health Care Agency directly at (714) 834-4722 or at www.ochealthinfo.com for information and assistance.

How You Can Participate

A 30-day public comment period for the draft IRM Workplan and draft MND will begin

October 22, 2009 and end November 23, 2009.

You may provide your comments on either document during this period. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by **November 23, 2009** and sent to:

Safouh Sayed, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov

To learn more about the Ascon Landfill site project in advance of the public comment period, DTSC is hosting an informal Open House on **Wednesday, October 14, 2009**, to discuss site activities. DTSC staff and other representatives will be available to meet and discuss site concerns with you. Your participation is encouraged (see front page for location and hours).

Next Steps

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received during the public comment period on the draft IRM Workplan and draft MND. If approved, IRM field work will begin the first half of 2010. The IRM is an interim action and is not the final remedy for the site. DTSC will continue development of the final remedy, called a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), for the Ascon Landfill site. The draft RAP will be available for public review and comment along with a draft Environmental Impact Report. DTSC anticipates these documents to be available for public review and comment in 2011.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

For more information about the Ascon Landfill site, please contact:

Safouh Sayed, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5478
E-mail: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

Where To Find Project Documents

Beginning October 22nd, copies of the draft IRM Workplan and draft MND and other site project documents will be available for public review at

the following Information Repositories:

Huntington Beach Central Park Main Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-1232
(714) 842-4481
Mon – 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tues/Wed/Thurs – 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Fri/Sat – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun – 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Banning Branch Library
9281 Banning Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-8302
(714) 375-5005
Mon – Closed
Tues/Wed/Thurs – 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Fri – 10:00 – 7:00 pm
Sat – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun – Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above to make an appointment.

For more information about the Ascon Landfill site visit www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov or www.ascon-hb.com. For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Alert OC Hotline

Although it is expected that the remediation of the Ascon Landfill can be implemented in a safe manner, protective of the public and the environment, in the event of a serious emergency at the Ascon Landfill site, the Alert OC system may be activated. Alert OC is a mass notification system designed to keep residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. Time sensitive voice messages may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices. Please ensure you are registered with Alert OC at www.AlertOC.com or www.surfcity-hb.org.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can contact the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Sandra Friedman
Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5383
E-mail: sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Attn: Stacey Lear
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630