
SANTA CRUZ FORMER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT

Environmental Restoration Project | Questions and Answers - Fall 2012

1. Can you tell me about this project?

From August to January 2013, PG&E and Chevron Environmental Management Company (Chevron) will conduct a voluntary environmental cleanup project in and around commercial properties located at the southwest corner of River Street and North Pacific Avenue where a manufactured gas plant operated from the late 1800s to mid-1900s. The work involves excavating about 200 truckloads of soil that contains old gas plant residue, backfilling these areas with an equal amount of clean fill material; repaving parking lots; and re-landscaping around the parking lots, buildings, and exterior areas of the site.

2. Will this work inconvenience the community of Santa Cruz?

PG&E and Chevron will work hard to minimize off-site impacts to the surrounding community. Area residents and businesses can expect to experience some noise and mild vibrations from project equipment operation, short-term street closures to allow trucks to leave the site, and changed parking arrangements, all of the type associated with typical construction work. We will work with neighbors regularly to keep disruption of their routines to the least possible.

3. Construction work is dusty and smelly, will this be the same?

A Health and Safety Officer will be on-site whenever work takes place and will be monitoring dust and odor levels – both at the excavation areas and site perimeter—in real time. That person will stop work any time dust or odors exceed levels that have been established by the California EPA to protect public health and safety. Crews will spray water on any areas where dust might be created and use water and foam to suppress any odors (old gas plant residues have a diesel oil or mothball like smell).

Trucks and equipment to be used on site are retrofitted for low emissions, as feasible, and on site idling will be kept to five minutes or less. People with sensitive senses of smell may occasionally perceive nuisance odors. A nuisance odor means a person can smell an odor but it does not present any threat or risk to health. Since people have varying senses of smell it is likely some people may smell odors while others might not.

4. Will your work impact traffic on River Street?

Trucks will enter the site from River Street and exit the site by turning left (east) onto River Street, traveling less than a half-mile to Highway 1. Traffic control may involve short-term (five minutes or less) closures of River Street and North Pacific Avenue adjacent to the site. When trucks enter and exit the site, flagmen will control traffic to ensure the safety of all involved. Trucks will not line up outside of the work area and truckers will keep idling to a minimum.

5. What about parking spaces?

We will create space within the cleanup area to accommodate equipment parking. However, in order to remove contaminated soil from underneath the parking lots we will need to temporarily close areas where tenants park. We have arranged for alternate tenant parking at 110 Lindberg Street and an on-site parking monitor will monitor the alternate lot to ensure tenants and tenants' clients have adequate parking.



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6. How many trucks will enter/exit the site?

We anticipate about five to 10 trucks will enter and leave the site per day (about one per hour) on average. At no time will more than 20 trucks go through the site on any day.

7. Should we worry about the stability of the cliff?

We conducted geotechnical evaluations indicating that the work will not impact the stability or integrity of the cliff located behind the properties. We specially engineered the work and carefully selected the equipment that will be used to minimize the amount of disturbance and vibrations.

8. What are the hours of work?

Operations at the site will take place only between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

9. What regulatory agencies are involved?

The Cal/EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will oversee the project. Work is also being coordinated with the Monterey County Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the City and County of Santa Cruz.

10. How can I get more information?

For more information, call toll-free: 866.247.0581, PG&E Community Hotline.



As part of the restoration project, new landscaping using water wise trees and vegetation will be installed as shown in the rendering above.

