



Manufactured Gas Plant Program

Former Red Bluff MGP

Project Update

February 2014

Introduction

As part of our commitment to environmental responsibility, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is addressing over 40 manufactured gas plant (MGP) sites it owned or operated throughout California. This program is being conducted voluntarily under the oversight of the California EPA - Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

In the mid-1800s and early 1900s, before natural gas was available as an energy source, more than 1,500 MGPs were located in cities and towns throughout the United States. These plants used coal and oil to produce gas for lighting, heating and cooking. With the arrival of natural gas, most manufactured gas plant sites in PG&E's service area were no longer needed and were closed down.

The former Red Bluff MGP operated at 600 Rio Street in Red Bluff, California from 1874 to 1947. PG&E purchased the plant from the Northern California Power Company in 1919 and operated it until 1947. By 1949, PG&E had removed the old gas plant equipment and the property was sold in 1959. The Cinderella Motel was built on the property in 1962 and operated until 2010 when PG&E repurchased the property to facilitate investigation and cleanup activities.

Site Cleanup Plan Available for Public Comment – February 7 - March 10, 2014

PG&E has completed the environmental investigation at the former Red Bluff gas plant site, which involved collecting and analyzing hundreds of samples of soil and groundwater for chemicals associated with the historic gas-making process. Investigations confirmed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, total petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds and metals, such as lead and arsenic, in soil and groundwater at the site.

PG&E has developed a plan to clean up the site, called a draft Remedial Action Plan or draft RAP, which will be available for public comment from February 7 through March 10, 2014. A public meeting will be held on February 20, 2014 at Red Bluff City Hall, Council Chambers, at 555 Washington Street, at 6:30 p.m., to accept public comments on the proposed cleanup.

The draft RAP proposes the following activities:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of roughly 18,500 cubic yards of shallow soil (about 1,000 truckloads);
- On-site treatment of about 9,000 cubic yards of deeper soil by mixing the soil with cement to stabilize it in-place; and
- Completion of site restoration activities including backfilling excavated areas with clean, imported soil and grading to support drainage and future development.

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was conducted to determine if chemicals in the soil pose a risk to human health or the environment. This study determined that the chemicals detected in the soil at the site pose no risk to on-site workers or the surrounding community; however, some form of cleanup is needed for long-term protection (30 years plus) of the environment.



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Site Cleanup Targeted for Late 2014

Upon DTSC approval of the cleanup plan, PG&E will prepare engineering plans and secure permits for the work. Remediation activities are anticipated to begin in fall or winter of 2014 and will last approximately nine months. The public will be provided notice before the cleanup project starts.

For More Information

PG&E is committed to keeping the community informed about this project. For more information please contact:

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