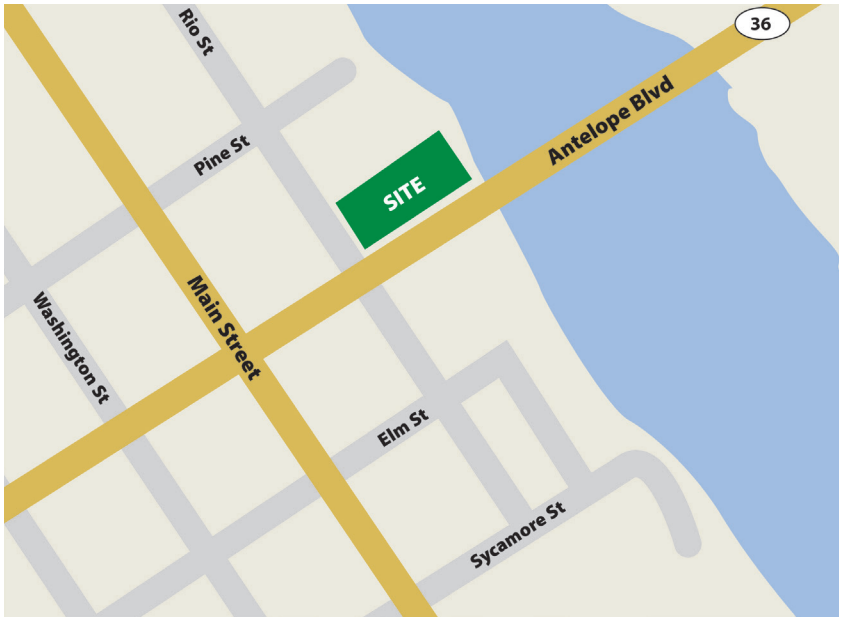
COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

DTSC Proposes a Cleanup Plan for the Former Red Bluff Manufactured Gas Plant Site



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a proposed cleanup plan for the Former Red Bluff Manufactured Gas Plant Site (site) located at 600 Rio Street in Red Bluff, California, 96080. The cleanup plan, called a draft Remedial Action Plan or draft RAP, summarizes how the owner of the site, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), proposes to address residual contamination from historic gas-making activities that are present in soil and groundwater at the site.

The draft RAP proposes excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 18,500 cubic yards of contaminated shallow soils and treating approximately 9,000 cubic yards of deeper soils by mixing with cement to stabilize the residual contamination in-place. After the cleanup is conducted, the site would be backfilled with clean, imported soil and graded to support drainage and safe,

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

February 7, 2014 to March 10, 2014

DTSC invites you to review and comment on the draft RAP and related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration for the site during a 30-day public comment period beginning Friday, February 7 and ending Monday, March 10, 2014. Please send comments to:

Duane White, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Duane.White@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-3585

PUBLIC MEETING:

DTSC will host a public meeting to provide information on the draft RAP, answer questions and obtain public comments.

Date: **February 20, 2014**
Time: **6:30 p.m.**
Location: **Red Bluff City Hall** – Council Chambers, 555 Washington Street, Red Bluff, 96080

productive reuse of the property.

Site Description and History

PG&E owns the one-acre property at 600 Rio Street in Red Bluff, California. The site is one block east of downtown and adjacent to the Sacramento River. The site is currently vacant and fenced.

From 1874 to 1947, a manufactured gas plant operated at the site using a variety of feed stocks including: wood, shale, coal and crude oil to produce gas. The byproducts of gas-making operations were tar, light oils, sludge and lampblack, which is a fine black soot-like material. PG&E purchased the plant from Northern California Power Company in 1919 and operated it until 1947, at which time PG&E began using propane and later, natural gas. By 1949, PG&E had removed the old gas plant equipment and the property was sold in 1959. A motel was built on the property in 1962 and operated until 2010 when PG&E repurchased the property to facilitate investigation and cleanup activities. PG&E demolished the motel in 2011.

Site Investigation

Since 2010, several investigations have determined the extent of historic gas plant residues in soil, soil gas (the air in between soil particles) and groundwater at the site. These investigations identified varying levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals such as lead, primarily in the upper one to ten feet of soil.

Groundwater beneath the site occurs at a depth of about ten to 38 feet. Investigations show low levels of PAHs, TPH and VOCs in groundwater beneath the site. However, none of these chemicals have left the site and flowed to any of the City of Red Bluff municipal wells.

Human Health Risk Assessment

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) concluded the site, in its current condition, does not present a risk to site workers, surrounding populations or the environment. However, site cleanup will achieve the overall goal of long-term protection (i.e. 30-plus years) of human health and the environment, should site use change. This will also allow for future reuse of the site.

Cleanup Options Considered

The draft RAP summarizes the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and identifies proposed alternatives to clean up the site. DTSC uses the following criteria to evaluate the cleanup methods: effectiveness, feasibility, regulatory and public acceptance, protection of human health and the environment, as well as cost.

Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated:

Alternative 1: No Action – The site would be left in its current condition under this alternative. This alternative is used as a baseline against which to compare other alternatives.

Alternative 2: Removal of Impacted Soil in Shallow and Deep Zones – A total of approximately 27,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be removed to a depth of 35 feet below ground surface. Excavated soil would be disposed of at a permitted landfill. Excavated areas would be backfilled and the site would be graded and restored.

Alternative 3: Source Removal for Shallow Zone and Permeable Reactive Barrier for Deep Zone – Shallow soil would be removed as specified in Alternative 2; however, contaminated soil below ten feet would not be removed.

Instead, a permeable barrier constructed of granular iron and an oxygen releasing compound would be placed in the path of groundwater to treat impacted groundwater on-site and keep contaminated groundwater from migrating off-site. Excavated areas would be backfilled and the site would be graded and restored.

Alternative 4: Source Removal for Shallow Zone and In-Situ Thermal Treatment for Deep Zone – Shallow soil would be removed as specified in Alternative 2 and 3; however, contaminated soil below ten feet would not be removed. Moreover, contaminated soil would be treated in-place using heat to remove contamination. Removal of chemicals from soil would also remove the source of contamination to groundwater. Excavated areas would be backfilled and the site would be graded and restored.

Alternative 5: Source Removal for Shallow Zone and In-Situ Stabilization for Deep Zone – Shallow soil would be removed as specified in Alternative 2, 3 and 4; however, contaminated soil below ten feet would not be removed. Contamination in deep soil would be left on-site and stabilized by mixing cement into the soil. This action would solidify the contaminated soil in-place so that it cannot move and chemicals cannot leach into groundwater. Excavated areas would be backfilled and the site would be graded and restored.

All alternatives include groundwater monitoring to be conducted to confirm that the removal of contaminated soil has improved groundwater conditions. Also included is placement of a deed restriction on this PG&E property to prohibit groundwater use.

Proposed Cleanup Plan

Based on an evaluation of cleanup alternatives, DTSC recommends alternative 5 for the site. This alternative offers long-term protection of human health and the environment, while balancing cleanup with the least amount of disruption to the community and short-term impacts to the environment.

If the draft RAP is approved, the following activities would address historic gas plant residues:

- Remove and demolish asphalt/concrete paving within excavation areas;
- Remove, in phases, about 18,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil (about 1,000 truckloads) from a depth of one to ten feet;
- Place excavated soil in trucks for off-site disposal;
- Stabilize about 9,000 cubic yards of soil to a depth of 35 feet by adding a cement mixture to soil;
- Backfill and compact excavated areas with clean, imported soil;
- Grade the site for proper drainage;
- Clean up and restore all work areas; and
- At least semi-annually, conduct monitoring to see that the removal and stabilization of impacted soil results in a natural decline of chemicals in groundwater over time.

Soil excavation is anticipated to begin in fall 2014 and will last about nine months. Environmental controls, including air-, dust- and noise-monitoring and suppression, will protect the surrounding community during cleanup.

CEQA

As the lead agency under CEQA, DTSC conducted an Initial Study that determined the proposed project along with mitigation measures would not have a significant environmental impact. DTSC concluded a Mitigated Negative Declaration was the appropriate document to prepare under CEQA. DTSC welcomes comments on the adequacy of the analysis contained in the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Next Steps

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Responsiveness Summary to respond to comments received. This document will list the comments received and how they were considered prior to making a final decision on the draft RAP. The Responsiveness Summary will be placed in the information repositories established for the site and sent to those who submitted comments.

Where to Find Site Documents

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

Tehama County Library - Red Bluff Branch
645 Madison Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-0604 ext. 105

The full administrative record is available for review at:

DTSC - File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Please call Amy Ly for an apporintment at (916) 255-3758.

EnviroStor Database: Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets and other PG&E Red Bluff 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, please contact the following DTSC representatives:

Duane White, DTSC Project Manager
Duane.White@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-3585

Nathan Schumacher, DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Nathan.Schumacher@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-3650
Toll-free at (866) 495-5651

If you are from the media, please contact:

Russ Edmondson, DTSC Public Information Officer
Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 323-3372