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Public Involvement

Cleanup

Science & Tech



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, February 2005

You May Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plans for Former DuPont Plant

Introduction

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the Draft Groundwater Interim Measures Work Plan and Draft Soil Removal Work Plan as well as the Draft California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration for the former E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) plant in Oakley, California (Oakley Site). These plans are interim measures while investigations continue toward a final cleanup plan. The Oakley Site is at 6000 Bridgehead Road in Oakley (please see Figure 1).

You may attend a discussion of these proposals at a meeting of the Community Advisory Panel for the Oakley Site on Wednesday, February 23, 2005, at 6:30 P.M. If interested in attending, please call (925) 757-5836 to make arrangements, since the meeting is in a fenced area on the DuPont facility.

Site History and Description

The Oakley Site is on Bridgehead Road, bordered to the north by the San Joaquin River, to the south by railroad tracks, to the east by Big Break Road, and to the west by Highway 160. The Site is about 378 acres of which 174 acres are wetlands

YOUR COMMENTS SOUGHT ON PROPOSED CLEANUP PLANS

The Public Comment Period is from:

FEBRUARY 7 TO MARCH 8, 2005

Please send comments to:

Dean Wright, DTSC Project Manager

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 255-3585

Dwright@dtsc.ca.gov





Figure 1. DuPont Oakley Site Location

next to the San Joaquin River. DuPont operated a manufacturing plant on the site from 1956 to 1997. At the height of its operations, DuPont employed nearly 600 people. Originally built to make gasoline «anti-knock» agent tetraethyl lead, DuPont also started making refrigeration cooling compounds called Freon®. In 1963, DuPont started producing titanium dioxide, a white pigment used in a number of household products and foods.

Later, DuPont reused one of the byproducts of the titanium dioxide manufacturing process by combining it with cement and offering it for sale as a roadway sub-base material under the trade name SIERRA-CRETE®. DuPont stopped all production activities at the Oakley Site in 1998 and demolished many of the

buildings in 1999. The company still uses a small portion of the site for a joint venture doing quality control testing for automotive paints.

Previous Investigations

DuPont began investigating groundwater at the Oakley Site in the 1980s. Since that time, DuPont installed more than one hundred groundwater monitoring wells and collected thousands of groundwater samples. Monitoring showed that carbon tetrachloride and other chemicals exceeded state cleanup levels. In response, DuPont installed a groundwater pump-and-treat system in 1989. Later, DuPont decided to test a new technology in order to speed up the cleanup and contain the contamination spread.

Proposed Groundwater Cleanup Plan

In the groundwater, monitoring showed carbon tetrachloride and other chemicals related to DuPont's production of refrigerants. DTSC proposes a new groundwater interim measure to clean up and control releases in the groundwater.

In 2000 and 2001, with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board approval, DuPont constructed a pilot test of a zero valent iron treatment system at the Oakley Site. The zero valent iron treatment system is more commonly referred to as a permeable reactive barrier or PRB for short. Figure 2 shows a drawing of a PRB.

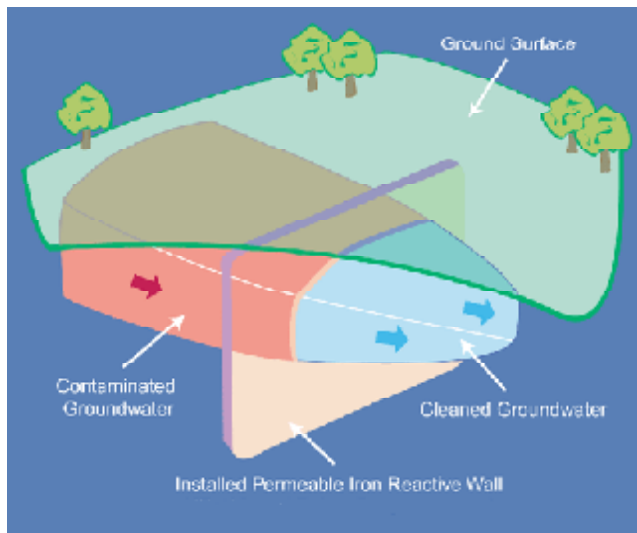


Figure 2. Conceptual PRB

The Pilot PRB was three to four times more effective than the original pump-and-treat system. The removal of carbon tetrachloride approaches 100% effectiveness with the pilot PRB. The Proposed new PRB at DuPont will involve injecting suspended iron filings into a 485-foot-long, six-inch-thick reaction zone located from about 30 to 110 feet below the ground surface.

DTSC proposes to extend the pilot 110-foot long PRB to a total length of 485 feet, and at the same time, add a parallel 485-foot-long PRB in the upper groundwater zone. Figure 3 shows the current alignment of the pilot and the proposed upper and lower groundwater zone PRBs. To check on the effectiveness of this proposal, DTSC plans to expand groundwater monitoring.

Under DTSC oversight, DuPont will install 23 new groundwater monitoring wells. If DTSC approves this proposal, DuPont will also send groundwater quality reports twice a year to DTSC.

Proposed Soil Removal

Part of the property purchased by DuPont for the Oakley Site was never developed or used for chemical manufacturing. Before and during DuPont's ownership, farmers have used the land for orchards and vineyards. They constructed some farm buildings on this part of the property. Farmers have used these buildings to store pesticides for weed and insect control.

Sampling found that some agricultural chemicals remain in the soil in two areas, less than two feet deep. Here is how we propose this cleanup:

- Dig up and remove about seven cubic yards of contaminated soil to about two feet below the ground surface;
- Spray water during digging operations to reduce dust;
- Collect soil samples from the dug out areas to make sure that contaminated soil is gone;
- Backfill dug out areas with clean soil.

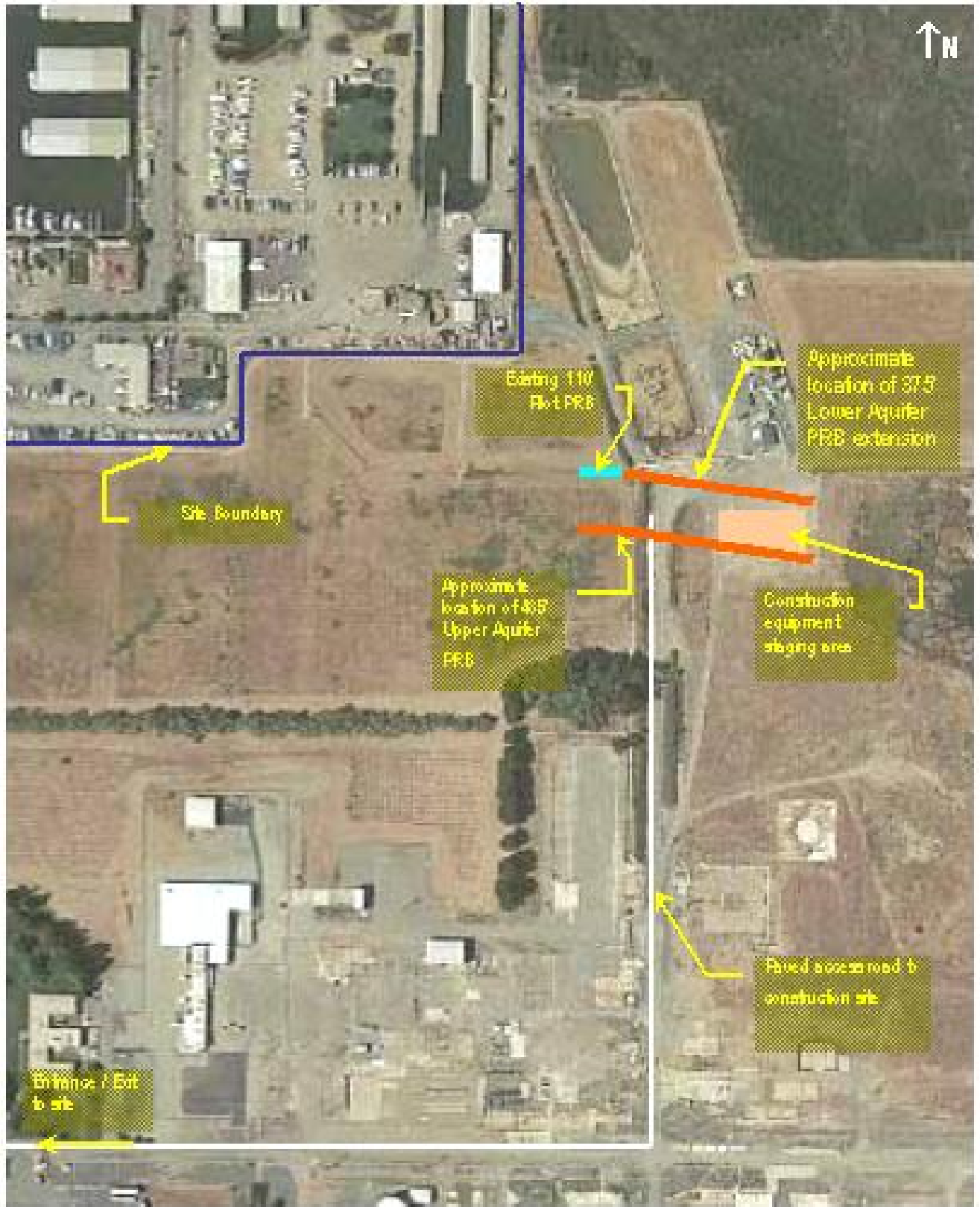


Figure 3. Alignment of PRB walls

DTSC Studied Environmental Impacts

The California Environmental Quality Act requires DTSC to study the environmental impacts of any proposed project. DTSC considered both proposed groundwater and soil cleanup plans and found no negative impacts to the environment from either proposal. Based on our Initial Study, DTSC prepared a Draft Negative Declaration for public review. During the public comment period, you may review the Negative Declaration and send us comments on it.

Cut out and mail #

Are you on DTSC's Mailing List?

If you would like to be on the mailing list, please fill out the information below and mail back to Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Please take me off the mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company
6000 Bridgehead Road
Oakley, California 94561-2940

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions, please contact:

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DTSC Project Manager
(916) 255-6528
E-mail at DWright@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please call Angela
Blanchette
DTSC Public Information Officer
(510) 540-3732
Email at ABlanche@dtsc.ca.gov

ANUNCIO

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de DuPont, favor de llamar a Fernando Amador de el Departamento de Control de Substancias Toxicas. El numero de telefono es (916) 255-3737.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Draft Groundwater Interim Measures Work Plan and the Draft Soil Removal Work Plan are available for review at:

The Oakley Public Library
1050 Neroly Road
Oakley California 94561
(925) 625-2400

DTSC File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826
(916) 255-3758

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (888) 8775378 to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding DuPont.