

# TOPOCK REMEDIATION REVIEW

Third Quarter 2012 Newsletter

## Update on the Groundwater Design

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is in the process of developing the Intermediate (60%) Design for the Topock groundwater remedy, and has been given a three-month extension (Sept. 2012 to Jan. 2013) for submittal of the document. The new schedule calls for the 60% Design to be submitted in January 2013. The reason for the schedule change is related to the selection of a freshwater source for the remedy, which is an important component of the 60% Design.

The final remedy will require a supply of freshwater, which PG&E originally proposed to obtain from a well on Havasu National Wildlife Refuge property (HNWR-1). There is a possibility that the HNWR-1 water would have to be treated to remove naturally occurring arsenic prior to injection. PG&E continues to evaluate options for water supply and is currently searching for a new well location that could supply an adequate quantity of water and not require treatment prior to injection. Three potential locations have been identified – one in California and two in Arizona. Access to these locations has been secured and cultural and biological surveys were conducted in early October. PG&E has been working with the agencies and tribal representatives to evaluate these sources; field work is anticipated to begin on October 23, 2012.



October 2012

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Groundwater Design Schedule

<b>Intermediate (60%) Design</b>	<b>Submit for Review/Comment</b>
	Early January 2013
	<b>Comments Due</b>
	End of May 2013
<b>Pre-Final (90%) Design</b>	<b>Response to Comments/Comments Resolution</b>
	May to end of June 2013
	<b>Submit for Review/Comment</b>
	September 2013
	<b>Comments Due</b>
	November 2013
	<b>Response to Comments/Comments Resolution</b>
	Mid November to mid December 2013

#### Revised Soil Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Work Plan

<b>Submitted for Agency Approval</b>	September 17, 2012
<b>Soil CEQA Review</b>	Ongoing by DTSC

#### Recent Meetings and Events

<b>July 11</b>	<b>Cultural and Historic Properties Management Plan (CHPMP) Meeting,</b> BLM Lake Havasu Field Office
<b>July 17</b>	<b>Clearinghouse Task Force (CTF) Meeting,</b> Henderson, NV
<b>July 26</b>	<b>Tribal/PG&amp;E Topock Project Monthly Update,</b> conference call
<b>August 21</b>	<b>CTF Meeting, MWD,</b> La Verne, CA
<b>August 22</b>	<b>Tribal/PG&amp;E Topock Project Monthly Update,</b> La Verne, CA
<b>September 12</b>	<b>CHPMP Meeting,</b> BLM Lake Havasu Field Office
<b>September 18</b>	<b>CTF Meeting,</b> Henderson, NV
<b>September 27</b>	<b>Tribal/PG&amp;E Topock Project Monthly Update,</b> conference call
<b>October 16</b>	<b>CTF Meeting,</b> Hilton Garden Inn, Yuma, AZ
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Consultative Work Group (CWG) Meeting,</b> Hilton Garden Inn, Yuma, AZ

*Note: Dates subject to change*



A view from the Colorado River

## RFI/RI Work Plan Submitted for Agency Approval, Environmental Review

On September 17, 2012, PG&E submitted the Revised Soil Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Work Plan to the agencies for approval and environmental review. The purpose of this work plan is to summarize available soil data for the areas inside and outside the Topock Compressor Station fenceline, and to propose potential sample locations for collection of additional data to support the decision-making.

The soil investigation program addresses 15 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), Areas of Concern (AOCs), and other Undesignated Areas outside the Topock Compressor Station fenceline. This work plan recommends additional sampling in 10 of the 15 areas, and only unintrusive investigation in one of the 10 areas. The soil investigation program also addresses 27 SMWUs and AOCs within the Topock Compressor Station fenceline. This work plan recommends additional sampling in 25 of the 27 areas. In addition, this work plan addresses two additional areas: 1) the perimeter area (the area extending from the Topock Compressor Station fence line to the toe of the slope, outside the fence line), and, 2) the Topock Compressor Station storm drains.

Completion of the proposed soil investigation, as described in the work plan, is required to proceed with the risk assessment and Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) for soil inside and outside the Topock



Blooming Cactus

Compressor Station fence line. The risk assessment and CMS/FS are required to determine the appropriate remedy.

Pursuant to CEQA, DTSC has also begun an environmental review of the revised work plan. This review is required prior to the State's approval of the proposed work. DTSC and its CEQA contractor will provide a timeline for CEQA review, at which time the schedule for agencies' approval will be revised accordingly.

### Supplemental Soil Investigation Work Plan Timeline

**Revised Work Plan**  
Submitted September 17, 2012

**Agencies Review/Approve**  
Estimated Fall 2012

**Field Implementation**  
Estimated Start Winter 2013



## Spotlight: Technical Review Committee



Margaret R. Eggers, PhD, PG, CHG

Margaret R. Eggers, PhD, PG, CHG joined the Topock Technical Review Committee (TRC) at its formation in October 2011, and serves as a member and Administrative Chair. Her work focuses on the development of the remedial design, and implementation of project wells and significant infrastructure on a

property that has very deep spiritual meaning and sacred history for the Tribes. Dr. Eggers' work as an environmental consultant began in 1987 in St. Louis, Missouri, later moving to Southern California where her work focused on complex, large-scale, environmental clean-up efforts primarily for industrial sites. In 2003, Dr. Eggers started her own independent consulting firm, Eggers Environmental, Inc. to provide expert

services for litigation consulting and mediation, and 3rd party review in soil and groundwater contamination, geology and hydrogeology. Throughout her professional career, Dr. Eggers has focused her environmental practice on complex clean-up projects, involving multiple agencies and diverse groups and stakeholders. In all of her endeavors, Dr. Eggers works collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders, striving to find a balance between environmental solutions, grounded in science, while also reaching consensus among parties on any given project.

In addition to her consulting practice, Dr. Eggers serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Geological Society of America Foundation, and has served on the Editorial Board of the Environmental Forensics Journal since 2005. She is an editor/author of the field guide, "Mining History and Geology of Joshua Tree National Park" and is also a lecturer and workshop instructor for the Joshua Tree National Park Association's Desert Institute. Within the academic world, she teaches Geology and Oceanography part-time at Mira Costa College, and is an Adjunct to San Diego State University Department of Geological Sciences.

## Topock Project Activity Recap

- Responses to the community survey mailed to local residents and stakeholders in January 2012 with the DTSC Topock Environmental Investigation Update Fact Sheet are now being analyzed and will be included in DTSC's updated Community Outreach Plan, expected to be completed in December 2012.
- Following the finalization of the Cultural and Historic Properties Management Plan (CHPMP) by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), that occurred in the first quarter of 2012, agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders continue to meet every other month to continue the discussion of the CHPMP. The next CHPMP meeting is November 14, 2012, in Lake Havasu City (exact location to be determined).
- Several of the mitigation measures determined by, called for, and required by the EIR are in progress:
  - The Second Quarter 2012 EIR Mitigation Measures Compliance Report was completed at the end of July 2012 and is available on the DTSC Topock project website.
  - PG&E has been conducting and will continue to conduct outreach with Tribes regarding Topock project activities (CUL-1a-8a). Tribal/PG&E conference calls are scheduled monthly. The purpose of the monthly calls is to provide up-to-date information on planned and ongoing studies, field activities, measures that are being taken to mitigate project impacts in accordance with the project EIR, and/or other project-related activities of interest to Tribes.
- Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program protocols are currently being revised with tribal participation. PG&E is conducting outreach with Tribes on several parts of the Cultural Impact Mitigation Program (CIMP). The plan for the decommissioning and removal of the IM-3 Facility and Site Restoration will be included as an appendix to the CIMP. A draft CIMP will be provided to interested Tribes for review prior to submittal to DTSC for review and approval. The CIMP will be submitted with the final design as directed.
- Field surveys:
  - Avian surveys for Southwest Willow Flycatcher were performed in July, 2012. The field surveys are part of EIR mitigation measure BIO-2a.

# TOPOCK REMEDiation REVIEW



The **Topock Remediation Review** is a quarterly technical update on the Topock Compressor Station cleanup project. It is published by the Topock Clearinghouse Task Force, a group of stakeholders comprised of state, regional, and federal agencies; tribal governments; and PG&E representatives. The **Topock Remediation Review** is dedicated to enhancing stakeholder understanding of technical and regulatory information, encouraging participation in decision making forums, and fostering timely and effective project management and decisions for the Topock Compressor Station project final remedy.

You may view past issues of the newsletter in the Document Library on the project's website ([www.dtsc-topock.com](http://www.dtsc-topock.com)). Once there navigate to the "Public Outreach" page and its "Other Outreach Documents" category.

## For More Information

Visit DTSC's Topock Project Website:  
[www.dtsc-topock.com](http://www.dtsc-topock.com)

Questions regarding this newsletter or the Topock Project should be directed to:

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## Upcoming Meetings

October 25	Tribal/PG&E Topock Project Monthly Update, conference call
November 14	CHPMP Meeting, Lake Havasu City (exact location to be determined)
December 4	CTF phone call, Webex update
January 15, 2013	CTF Meeting, location to be determined
January 16, 2013	CWG Meeting, location to be determined
January 17, 2013	TWG Meeting, location to be determined

*Note: Dates subject to change*