



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Miriam Barcellona Ingenito
Acting Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for the

PG&E TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION SOIL INVESTIGATION PROJECT

Public Comment Period: July 7, 2014 to August 21, 2014

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED

This is to provide notification that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is making available for review and comment a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for soil investigation activities associated with soil contamination at the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station (Station) near Needles, California. The DEIR evaluates the potential for environmental impacts associated with the implementation of soil investigation activities required to determine the nature and extent of soil contamination at the Station and surrounding area. DTSC is the lead agency responsible for oversight of the soil investigation activities at the Station under California Health & Safety Code, Chapter 6.5, and for preparation of the DEIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Station is located in eastern San Bernardino County, about 12 miles southeast of the city of Needles, California, south of Interstate 40, and one-half mile west of the Colorado River (see **Figure A**). The Station compresses natural gas so it can be transported through pipelines to PG&E's customers in northern and central California. Past activities at the Station have resulted in the release of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) into soil and groundwater including hexavalent chromium. Under certain exposure conditions, these COPCs are harmful to human health and the environment. In 1996, PG&E entered into a voluntary agreement with DTSC to investigate the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and to clean up any such contamination. In 2005 and 2013, PG&E signed similar agreements with the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) as the federal lead agency to protect lands owned by the federal government.

On January 14, 2013, a revised Soil Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Work Plan was submitted to DTSC that details soil investigation activities that are necessary for the Site. Perimeter areas outside of the Station fence line and the storm drains leading from the Station to areas outside the fence line are also included in the investigation. The purpose of the Work Plan is to describe the investigation work that is proposed to define potential contaminants in soils at the Site by collecting soil samples for chemical analysis. In addition to the sampling activities in the Work Plan, DTSC is also considering additional activities that would provide data to support future decisions on the cleanup of contaminated soil at the Site including geotechnical data collection, plant or biota sampling, and bench/pilot testing of clean up technologies. These activities collectively are defined as the Project and are the subject of the DEIR.

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65962.5 LISTINGS

The Station is a listed hazardous waste site. There are no other active listed sites within at least 7.5 miles of the Project area. The Station's proximity to the nearest school is over a mile.

ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The DEIR has determined that the proposed Project would result in significant biological resource, cultural resource, and noise impacts. Mitigation measures to reduce these impacts are described in the DEIR. After mitigation measures are applied, significant unavoidable cultural resource and noise impacts would continue to occur with Project implementation.

PERIOD TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR

DTSC is accepting comments on the DEIR from July 7 to August 21, 2014.

LOCATIONS OF OPEN HOUSES / PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT

NEEDLES:

Tuesday, July 22, 2014
Needles Senior Center
1699 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363
Open House—5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Public Hearing—6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GOLDEN SHORES:

Wednesday, July 23, 2014
Golden Shores Community Center
13136 Golden Shores Parkway
Golden Shores, AZ 86436
Open House—5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Public Hearing—6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS CAN BE REVIEWED

A copy of the DEIR is available for review at the project website (www.dtsc-topock.com) and the following locations:

Needles Public Library
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Colorado River Indian Tribes Public Library
Second Avenue and Mojave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation Environmental
Protection Office
2000 Chemehuevi Trail
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Parker Public Library
1001 Navajo Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344

Golden Shores/Topock Library Station
13136 South Golden Shores Parkway
Topock, AZ 86436

Lake Havasu City Library
1770 McCulloch Boulevard
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

PROJECT CONTACTS

Comments may be submitted at public meetings, or mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Aaron Yue, Project Manager
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
aaron.yue@dtsc.ca.gov
Phone: (714) 484-5439
Fax No.: (714) 484-5411

All comments must be postmarked or received by DTSC no later than 5 p.m., August 21, 2014, for consideration in the Final EIR.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABLED AND INFORMATION FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED: The public meeting rooms are accessible to people with disabilities. If translation services are needed or if additional accommodations for the disabled are needed, please notify Stacey Lear at (714) 484-5354 or email to stacey.lear@dtsc.ca.gov no later than 10 working days before the meeting. TYY users may use the California Relay Service at 711 in state or 1-800-855-7100 outside California