



NOTICE FOR GROUNDWATER REMEDY SELECTION
Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Topock Compressor
Station
Unincorporated San Bernardino County (Near Needles, California)



Certified on January 31, 2011

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) adopts the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and selected a remedy for the groundwater contamination at the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)'s Topock Compressor Station (Station) and its surrounding area near Needles, California. The EIR evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the final remedy. DTSC is the lead agency responsible for oversight of the environmental investigation and cleanup of contamination at the Station under California Health & Safety Code, Chapter 6.5, and for preparation of the EIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Station is located approximately 12-miles southeast of Needles, California and 1,500 feet west of the Colorado River. In 1951, the Station began compressing natural gas for transportation through pipelines to PG&E's service territory in Central and Northern California. From 1951 to 1985, chromium was used to control corrosion on the equipment. Untreated cooling tower wastewater containing hexavalent chromium was discharged directly into Bat Cave Wash, a natural wash immediately west of the Station. Over time, the hexavalent chromium seeped into the ground and created a contaminated groundwater plume, which extends from beneath the Station towards the Colorado River. Although PG&E discontinued the use of hexavalent chromium in 1985, contamination persists. The groundwater basin beneath the Station and its surrounding area is designated for beneficial uses and must be cleaned up.

SELECTED REMEDY

The selected remedy involves installation of injection and extraction wells along National Trails Highway to create a "treatment zone" by continuously mixing the contaminated plume groundwater with nutrient-added water to stimulate harmless, but helpful, naturally occurring bacteria whose growth create chemical conditions that convert hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium. Extraction wells near the river and within the East Ravine bedrock area would act as a barrier to prevent contamination from reaching the river, and would help convert hexavalent chromium in the floodplain. Additional injection wells located around the plume would inject fresh water and groundwater, removed from locations near the river, to push the plume towards the treatment zone.

NEXT STEPS

The groundwater remedy is divided into sequential phases of project implementation: construction, operations and maintenance, long-term monitoring, and decommissioning. It is estimated that the duration of these project phases is 3 years, 29 years (could be up to 110 years), 10 years, and 2 years, respectively. PG&E will prepare a Corrective Measure Implementation Work Plan that will provide the detail of the implementation schedule including design, pilot tests, construction, and monitoring periods. PG&E must also comply with measures that were identified during the EIR impact analysis to minimize affects of the project to sensitive cultural and biological resources including lighting controls, noise abatement, and modified work practices.

Due to the duration of the remedy and the potential unacceptable risk to a future hypothetical groundwater user, DTSC will be negotiating land-use restrictions with affected private property owners to protect the remedy and prevent uses of the contaminated groundwater. PG&E will also be required to comply with the financial responsibility requirements pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 25245 to assure that the required remediation work will be completed now and into the future.

LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS CAN BE REVIEWED

Project documents and the certified EIR are available for review at the project website (<http://www.dtsc-topock.com>) and at the following locations:

Colorado River Indian Tribes Library
Second Avenue and Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344
Contact: Elvira Bailey-Holgate (928) 669-1285

Golden Shores/Topock Station Library
13136 S. Golden Shores Parkway
Topock, AZ 86436
Contact: Kim Stoddard (928) 768-2235

Lake Havasu City Library
1770 McCulloch Boulevard
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Contact: Audrey LaCommare (928) 453-0718

Parker Library
1001 Navajo Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344
Contact: Jeannie Smith (928) 669-2622

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation
Environmental Protection Office
2000 Chemehuevi Trail
Havasus Lake, CA 92363
Contact: Gilbert Parra (760) 858-1140

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson (714) 484-5337

Needles Library
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363
Contact: Kirsten Mouton (760) 326-9255

PROJECT CONTACTS

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