

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

Ascon Landfill Site Update on Odor Control Technologies Pilot Test Work 21641 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing an update on the ongoing pilot test field work at the Ascon Landfill Site located at 21641 Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach. This update provides information regarding a DTSC-approved addendum to the Engineered Misting Containment (EMC) Pilot Test workplan with an additional test area, as shown in the figure to the right.

Site Background

The Site is a vacant 38-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach, California. The Site operated as an active landfill from approximately 1938 to 1984 and in its early years of operation received waste from oil drilling operations, including drilling muds and wastewater brines.

Site cleanup began in January 2019 and was paused in June 2019 in response to community concerns about nuisance odors generated during the cleanup. Pilot testing for odor control is being conducted as part of DTSC-mandated measures to address those odor concerns before restarting full scale remediation.

Update on Pilot Testing Work

In coordination with DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the Ascon Responsible Parties are testing two odor mitigation technologies, Engineered Misting Containment (EMC) and Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE), to evaluate these methods for limiting odors during future excavation work. The pilot work is approximately 50 percent complete, and the results will guide odor mitigation strategies when full scale cleanup is resumed. Learn more about the two odor mitigation technologies in the [DTSC Pilot Work Community Update](#) on EnviroStor, envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)

EMC: The Ascon team has completed EMC pilot work in the southern portion of the Site. This work occurred from July 3 through August 8 and approximately 5,000 cubic yards of potentially contaminated soil was excavated. Odorous soils were not encountered during the EMC pilot excavations completed to-date.

SVE: The SVE pre-treatment system began operating in mid-August, and the planned excavation portion of that pilot work is scheduled to be completed at the end of October 2023.

Concrete Crushing: In parallel with the pilot studies, Ascon conducted concrete crushing, constructed an access road in Lagoon 4 using non-odorous soils, and reinforced exposed geotextile in Lagoon 4 using the crushed concrete.

Additional Pilot Test Work

EMC must be tested in odorous soils to achieve the objectives of the EMC pilot test, however odorous soils were not encountered in the initial EMC testing areas. Therefore, DTSC has requested an additional excavation in more odorous soils. An area near the northern perimeter of the Site, shown on the map on page 1, has been identified to likely contain more odorous soils. Up to 4,800 cubic yards (CY) of soil will be excavated from this northern perimeter area, which will not exceed the total DTSC-approved volume of material to be excavated as part of the pilot test. Excavated odorous and Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)-contaminated soils will be placed in the SCAQMD Rule 1166 Treatment Cell. Excavated soils that are not odorous and are not VOC-contaminated may be placed as fill soils over Lagoon 4.



Example of EMC work to be tested in the northern perimeter, other EMC variations may be tested, as appropriate.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)

Public and Site Worker Health and Safety Measures

During pilot testing, the air monitoring program has been expanded to include monitoring at additional locations. This includes on-Site monitoring upwind and downwind from the work area, and at six Site perimeter locations for odor, total VOCs, and reduced sulfur compounds during excavation. Additionally, dust concentrations will continue to be monitored at the Site perimeter and odor will be monitored by dedicated personnel in the surrounding neighborhoods during working hours. Ascon personnel are identifiable by their blue shirts and safety vests as shown in the picture to the right.

Perimeter air quality monitoring stations have been equipped with electronic communication systems, so that results throughout the workday will be reported on [asconhb.com](https://www.asconhb.com) for the community to view within two hours of data collection. Response action thresholds have been established in accordance with SCAQMD permit requirements and health-based screening levels for each of the monitored parameters. If those thresholds are reached, response actions would include stopping work and reevaluating next steps.



Ascon community odor monitor

Analytical samples will be collected from the on-site air monitoring stations and at the Site perimeter for laboratory analysis of VOCs and sulfur compounds during working hours. Additionally, metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) will be analyzed in dust samples collected from three Site perimeter stations (one upwind and two downwind) twice per week. DTSC will be onsite to oversee the pilot test during excavation activities and will review all air quality monitoring results.

The Ascon team will continue air quality monitoring at the Site perimeter and off-Site stations for dust and VOCs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Air monitoring results during the pilot test have not indicated a risk to public health.

Next Steps:

- October/November 2023, complete on-site pilot testing.
- Late 2023/early 2024, Ascon reports pilot test findings and submits Remediation Restart Workplan.
- Upon DTSC approval of the Restart Workplan and a public meeting, full-scale remediation will resume and is estimated to last from 18 to 24 months.

Ascon Pilot Work Resources:

- [DTSC Open House Poster Boards](#)
- [DTSC Virtual Community Meeting Presentation](#)
- [DTSC Virtual Community Meeting Recording](#)
- [DTSC Community Meeting FAQs](#)

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/> (enter “Ascon” and select from drop-down menu) and find additional information on the project and pilot work at [asconhb.com](https://www.asconhb.com).



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Clayton Larkins
Project Manager
(657) 777-9816
Clayton.Larkins@dtsc.ca.gov

Jessica Anderson
Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5354
Jessica.Anderson@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries only:

Elizabeth Leslie Gassaway,
Public Information Officer
(916) 282-8941
Elizabeth.leslie-gassaway@dtsc.ca.gov

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please call the Ascon project hotline,
(714) 388-1825, or email info@asconhb.com

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit asconhb.com and sign up for e-mail notifications

Questions on Air Quality and Dust Monitoring:

Contact South Coast Air Quality Management
District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG (288-7664)



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)