



California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NESI Site (former Ascon Landfill)
Interim Removal Begins

November 1991

Fact Sheet #2

INTRODUCTION

In November, 1991 NESI Investment Group will begin removing all liquid hazardous waste from the NESI Site in Huntington Beach, formerly known as the ASCON Landfill. The work will be performed under the direction of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. The DTSC was formerly known as DHS. It is now a part of the newly formed California Environmental Protection Agency.

This is the second fact sheet published by DTSC to keep you informed about activities at the NESI Site (Ascon Landfill). The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide details regarding the upcoming removal activities and site investigation.

REMOVAL ACTION BEGINS

Beginning in November and continuing for several months, NESI will be removing liquid hazardous waste sludges from the surface impoundments present on site.

The purpose of the removal action is to protect the groundwater from further contamination as well as protect migrating birds from becoming trapped in the waste. It will also reduce the long term risk from low level emissions which may be emitted from the site.

The removal is required under the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act (TPCA) which was enacted to eliminate the existence of unsafe, unlined hazardous waste surface impoundments.

The draft Removal Action Plan and corresponding mitigated Negative Declaration were made available for public review and comment in August, 1991. Comments were incorporated and the plans finalized. A record of comments received and the corresponding DTSC responses is available for review at the local information repositories.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

Site History

The NESI Site (Ascon Landfill) is a vacant, 38-acre parcel of land located at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in the City of Huntington Beach. (See Figure 1) The site was formerly operated as the ASCON Landfill.

For decades, the site was known as the rotary mud dump and was primarily used for the disposal of oil field wastes. The dump operated under various owners from approximately 1938 until 1984. During the years of operation, the facility consisted of percolation and evaporation surface impoundments into which drilling muds and waste water brines were disposed.

Removal Process

The Removal Action will be conducted on surface impoundments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Pit F (See Figure 1). Initially, the viscosity of the liquid wastes prevented the use of conventional pumps. NESI, however, field tested various high capacity pumps currently in use by sanitation districts. Of all the pumps tested, one has performed exceptionally well and NESI is confident the liquid can be pumped and removed for resource recovery of the petroleum products.

The actual liquid removal process will be implemented using a series of high capacity submersible pumps. The material will be pumped into vacuum trucks and transported to a permitted oil recycler. The soils in contact with the waste material will also be removed and transported to the recycler for reclamation of any petroleum or used as an aggregate by the asphalt industry. Estimates of the wastes to be removed from the site are approximately 250,000 cubic yards of oil wastes from impoundments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and Pit F. The average volume capacity of vacuum trucks is 4,000 gallons. The duration of site activities will depend on the ease in which the materials can be pumped and removed from on-site. An additive which does not change or alter the useful properties of the petroleum wastes but enhances the pumpability of the waste materials will be added.

For questions, concerns or comments

~~24 HOUR NESI HOTLINE~~

~~(714) 648-5808~~

For emergencies
Dial 911

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Heissam Salloum, T. HOM

(310) 590-4910 586

~~Kristin Steinkamp Anderson~~ Ed Schumacher

(310) 590-4991 5539

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Truck traffic will begin leaving the site at 8:30 am and will leave through the gate on Magnolia Avenue. Traffic will make a right turn on Pacific Coast Highway, a right turn onto Beach Boulevard, and travel north to Interstate 405. Traffic will temporarily cease between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to allow for lunch hour traffic. Empty trucks will enter the site from Hamilton Avenue and will use Newland Street instead of Magnolia.

Potential effects during implementation of the removal action are increased dust, noise levels and odors. NESI will use vapor suppressing foam to control the vapors emitted during the pumping of the waste material. Hand held detectors which measure organic compounds in the air will be used to detect and monitor for benzene, toluene and hydrogen sulfide. Surface impoundments which have been disturbed or where emissions are recorded will be covered with foam overnight. Water will also be used to control dust in areas where heavy equipment will be traveling. Hours of operation will be limited to 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday thru Friday in compliance with Huntington Beach City Noise Ordinance. A wash facility will be located at the Magnolia exit to remove dirt and other debris from trucks as they exit traffic.

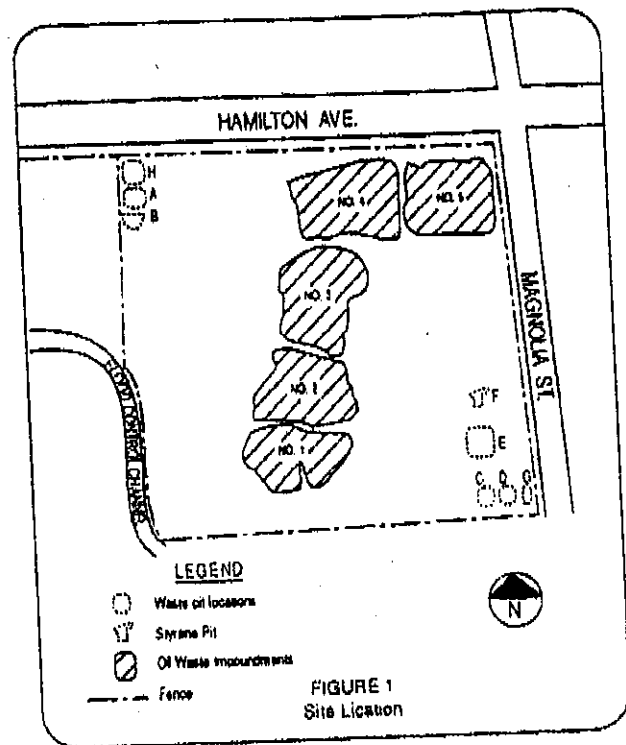
The site will be guarded during the evening by a security guard for the duration of the site activities.

Characteristics of Materials Being Removed

The crude oil waste at the site primarily consists of hydrocarbons with varying amounts of organic compounds containing nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen. Normally the crude oil is not considered hazardous, but due to the presence of benzene and other compounds it is considered hazardous at the site. Each oil field produces petroleum with a particular set of characteristics. Aromatic Hydrocarbons in the liquids are derived from raw petroleum and initially got their name from their pleasant, sweet smell, although the majority of them are not pleasant smelling. For the most part, they are derivatives of benzene. Some common benzene derivatives are Phenol, Toluene, Xylene, and Styrene. These compounds are all heavily used in industry either as solvents or reactants. Styrene is used in the production of plastics.

Crude petroleum is converted to a useful material through distillation which involves the heating and trapping of steam and later condensing it to form a liquid. This is how styrene is produced.

Many organic compounds have detectable and often foul odors. Odor is not always an indication of the presence of a hazardous level. The ability to detect odors is related to olfactory sensitivity.



A very small amount of one type of compound may be readily detected. Whereas a large amount of another may go unnoticed. The absence of an odor does not necessarily indicate safety. Nor does a very strong odor necessarily indicate danger. Compounds containing sulfur and nitrogen often have very unpleasant odors and very low odor thresholds.

Community Contingency Plan

The purpose of the Community Contingency Plan is to provide response procedures in the event of an on-site incident or elevated emissions recorded off-site. The Plan also discusses response procedures to be followed in the event of a natural disaster. The Huntington Beach Fire Department has been designated the commander during notification and/or relocation alerts. The Huntington Beach Police Department will assist the fire department in notifying the community. The police department will also coordinate traffic routes to Huntington Beach High School at 1905 Main Street, if the need for an evacuation should arise.

In the event of an emergency related to the site dial 911. NESI has also established a 24 hour hotline to answer any questions or address any complaints related to the site. The hotline number is (714) 840-8806. Questions can also be directed to Halssam Salloum, Project Manager with DTSC at (310) 590-4916.



Fact Sheet #1

EPA
 California Department of Health Services
 Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Program

**Ascon Landfill (NESI Site)
 Hazardous Waste Investigation**

July 1991

Introduction

In January, 1991 the California Department of Health Services (DHS) signed an enforceable agreement with NESI Investment Group (NESI), current property owner of the Ascon Landfill Site, providing DHS oversight of all hazardous waste investigations and cleanup operations for the site. The site is located in Huntington Beach, California, in a residential land use area.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an overview of past activities conducted on site and to provide residents, public officials and other interested parties information on the progress of upcoming remedial investigation and cleanup activities.

Site History

The Ascon Landfill is a vacant, 38-acre parcel of land located at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in the City of Huntington Beach. (See Figure 1)

For decades, the site was known as the rotary mud dump and was primarily used for the disposal of oil field wastes. The dump operated under various owners from approximately 1938 until 1984. The facility consisted of percolation and evaporation surface impoundments into which drilling muds and waste water brines were commonly disposed. These impoundments were constructed with earthen berms elevated approximately 25 feet above natural grade. Records indicate that from 1957 to 1971, materials currently classified as hazardous wastes such as chromic acid, sulfuric acid, aluminum slag, fuel oils, mercaptans and styrene were also disposed of on site.

From 1971 to 1984 only inert, solid wastes were disposed of at the site. These include materials such as soil, concrete, asphalt, wood, metal and abandoned vehicles. It was as a home for asphalt and concrete wastes that the name Ascon Landfill was derived.

The property was owned and operated by the Garrish Brothers from 1938 to 1950. The Steverson Bros., Inc. then purchased and operated the landfill until 1984, when it was purchased by Ascon Properties, Inc. Ascon Properties, Inc. was unsuccessful in its attempts to utilize the property and filed bankruptcy in

1989. NESI Investment Group obtained ownership through a foreclosure sale and is currently attempting to remediate and develop the property.

Site Characterization

Site Characterization activities have been conducted by a number of agencies, including DHS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Orange County Environmental Health and the City of Huntington Beach.

A significant amount of data has been generated from past site characterization activities. However, much of the information cannot be reliably used due to incompleteness and absence of quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) documentation. Although the data cannot be fully relied upon, it is a valuable and useful guide to historical conditions and changes that may

COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

July 30, 1991

ASCON COMMUNITY MEETING

Huntington Beach City Hall - Rm B-7
 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, 92648
 7:30 p.m.

DHS invites you to attend this meeting to learn more about the ASCON Landfill site investigation and share your questions and concerns with the Department.

File room: (310) 590 4980 Julie Johnson

For more information, please

contact *Kathleen Schumacher*

(714) 590-5539

Ascon Landfill (NESI Site) Hazardous Waste Investigation

and resampling of existing ground water monitoring wells. New monitoring wells will also be installed and sampled.

Health & Safety Plan

The RI/FS workplan contains a Health & Safety Plan prescribing procedures that must be followed by all personnel while working on the site. The provisions of the plan will be mandatory to all personnel and subcontractors assigned to the project. The plan will provide for a Health and Safety Manager, who will be responsible for coordinating the site-specific health and safety procedures. The plan will include medical surveillance, air monitoring during all field work and mitigation measures in the event of any releases, training requirements, hazard assessment, personnel protective equipment specifications, field implementation procedures and audits. The Health and Safety Manager will be the contact for regulatory agencies on these matters.

Contingency Plan

A contingency plan providing response procedures to protect the health and safety of the community surrounding the site during related field activities has been prepared. Potential health risks from field activities have been identified and a program for monitoring and responding to those risks will be implemented. The plan provides for a Site Safety Officer, who will be responsible for directing on-site activities required by the plan. The plan also provides for the coordination of responsibilities of the fire department, police department, DHS and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Removal Action

The Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984 (TPCA) was enacted to eliminate the existence of unsafe, unlined hazardous waste surface impoundments to prevent the potential for leakage of their contents into ground water. Under TPCA, these surface impoundments are required to undergo closure.

The agreement between the DHS and NESI stipulated a removal action be conducted to remove all liquid hazardous wastes and all hazardous wastes containing free liquids from all surface impoundments. The removal action will protect ground water from further contamination and in addition will remove the threat to wildlife. NESI has prepared a removal action and sampling plan to initiate field activities in September 1991. As specified by the agreement, the removal action will be conducted by NESI, under the direct oversight of DHS and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. See insert for more information regarding removal action plan.

Site Investigation and Cleanup Process Tentative Schedule

Removal Action	September 1991 through April 1992
Remedial Investigation	September 1991 through April 1992
Feasibility Study	May 1992
Remedial Action Plan	December 1992
Design and Implementation Plan	January 1993 through January 1994
Certification	March 1994

Public Review

Community meetings to seek public input on proposed action will be held prior to conducting the Removal Action and before adopting the Remedial Action Plan.

Public Involvement Opportunities

DHS encourages public involvement in the site investigation and cleanup process and invites community input.

DHS and NESI have interviewed a number of community representatives in order to assess interests and concerns and to develop a public participation strategy that can meet those needs. The plan provides for a variety of public involvement opportunities including local information repositories, fact sheets, a mailing list, community meetings and participation in the local Ad Hoc Committee.

Ascon Landfill (NESI Site) Mailing List

If you are not currently on the Ascon mailing list and wish to be added, please fill out the attached coupon and mail it to: Public Participation Unit; ~~Attn: Paul;~~ Department of ~~Public Participation~~ *Toxic Substance Control*
 P.O. Box 245 West Broadway, 3rd Floor; Long Beach, CA 90802

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Comments _____

Yes, I am interested in receiving periodic project updates. Please add me to the Project Mailing List.

Yes, I am interested in attending the Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Ascon Landfill (NESI Site) Hazardous Waste Investigation

ave occurred. The data generated has given DHS, as well as other regulatory agencies involved, sufficient information to assess the degree of contamination.

Styrene Pit

A total of eight waste pits have been identified through aerial photographs and historical records. Records indicate that all pits may contain chromic and sulfuric acids, aluminum slag, magnesium and potassium chloride, mercaptans and styrene. All pits, with the exception of Pit F, have been filled in. Pit F, known as the styrene Pit, is presently covered to reduce vapor emissions. Pit F was reportedly a disposal ground for styrene tars and synthetic rubber wastes. Hot aluminum slag was also reported to have been dumped into this pit. Characterization results have not demonstrated the presence of abnormal pH readings, but metals have been detected at low levels. These results suggest that acid wastes were not disposed of at this pit. The primary concern associated with Pit F has been the public nuisance from odor created. The liquid contents of Pit F are slated for removal in September (See Insert for details)

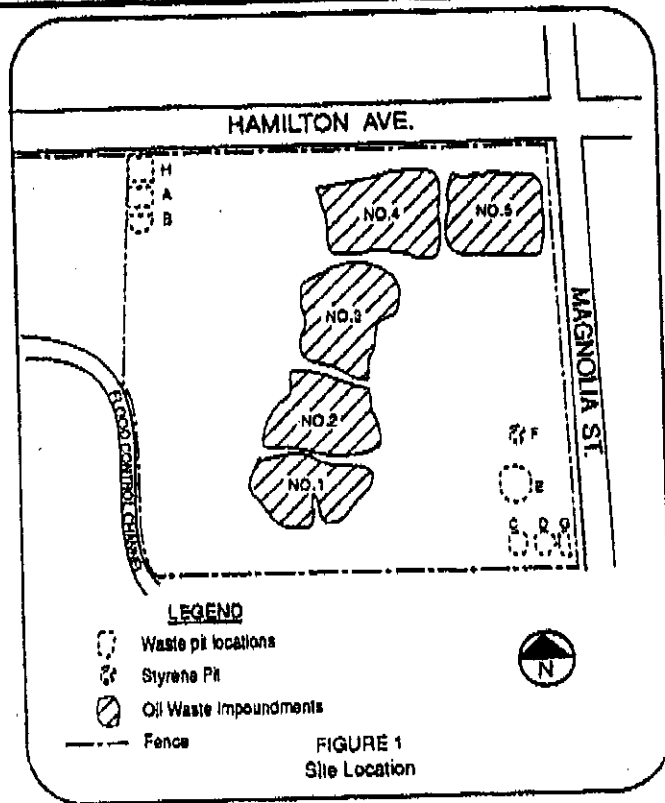
Oil Waste-Impoundments

Oil waste impoundments are present on site. The waste materials in the surface impoundments are mainly oil related wastes. Oily wastes and their derivatives are not normally considered hazardous in their purest state. However, when combined with other constituents which themselves are hazardous, they also become hazardous. The material in the surface impoundments is in liquid form and is comprised of a black tar-like, oily mixture. Analytical results have indicated high levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons and low levels of metals. Toluene, benzene and xylenes are also present in the waste. The liquids in these impoundments will be removed in September. (See-insert for details)

Evidence also indicates that the surface impoundments pose a threat to the local and migratory wildlife. To birds, the impoundments appear to be fresh water and they are lured into the impoundments as a place to feed, drink and/or rest. Until NESI covered these surface impoundments in January 1991, birds occasionally became entrapped in the oily substance and consequently perished.

Ground Water

The contents of the surface impoundments may have caused contamination of the shallow ground water. Records indicate that contamination was introduced during past monitoring well installations. It appears that drilling through contaminated areas without proper coring may have introduced wastes in the shallow ground water zone. This drilling was not done under DHS supervision.



The site lies on the seaward side of the Talbert Barrier project, which acts to artificially change the ground water flow to halt salt water migration into the Talbert Aquifer. As a result, the ground water beneath the site is characteristically brackish. While contamination is a concern, no known beneficial use for this ground water currently exists.

Upcoming Site Characterization Activities

To further evaluate the contamination present on site, NESI has submitted to DHS and other involved government agencies, a plan to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site. The RI/FS will assess air, soil and ground water contamination and will identify potential cleanup alternatives. NESI submitted the RI/FS plans in March and expects to start implementation in September 1991, following approval of all workplans by DHS.

As part of the RI, a risk assessment will be prepared to evaluate any risks which may be posed by the site in its present condition. The risk assessment will be used to determine what type of remediation measures will be necessary.


Under the guidance of DHS and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, NESI will conduct a site investigation that includes installing new soil borings, sampling of waste material

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Ascon Landfill (NESI Site) Hazardous Waste Investigation

Information Repositories

We encourage you to visit the information repositories or contact one of the representatives if you would like additional information or have concerns about the site you would like to share.

 **HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY**
SYSTEM
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA. 92648
Tel: (714) 960-8839
Fax: (714) 375-5180

Project Contacts

Representatives:

~~Richard Ballman~~ T. Horn

Project Manager
(213) 590-~~4888~~ 4886

~~Ed Schumacher~~ Ed Schumacher } *get on mail list*
Public Participation Specialist, ~~DTSC~~

(213) 590-~~4881~~ 5539

Tom Mungen
NESI Project Coordinator

(213) 644-3442

For More Information Ad Hoc Committee

A local Ad Hoc Committee has existed at this site since the mid 1980s. Originally established by the City Council, the committee provides the City and residents with a forum for monitoring site activities and providing input to the various involved agencies. If you are interested in being advised of future Ad Hoc Committee meetings, please indicate so on the enclosed mailing coupon.

Ad Hoc Meetings called by the City Council

California Department of Health Services
Toxic Substances Control Program
245 West Broadway, 3rd Floor,
Long Beach, CA 90802



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

2000 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 190
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92648

ASCON

Herb Fauland
Associate Planner
(714) 538-5271

FAX (714) 374-1540

Post-It™ Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
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Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #	(213) 623-0824	Fax #	

Attention:
Ascon Landfill (NESI Site)
Hazardous Waste Investigation