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For Chuck P. Tapia

California Environmen
Department of Toxi

ASCON SITE
UPCOMING PILOT TESTING

Fact Sheet #4 March 1999

INTRODUCTION

The Ascon Landfill Site is a vacant 38-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach (Figures 1 and 2). As part of an ongoing remediation feasibility study, two onsite pilot scale tests are planned for this spring and summer (Page 3). The tests will provide additional design information for the remedial technologies being considered.

BACKGROUND

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), has signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) with California/Nevada Developments, LLC (CND), formerly Savannah Resources Corporation. Under this VCA, the DTSC is supervising CND's efforts to develop a plan for the eventual cleanup of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes at the Ascon Landfill Site (Ascon).

In January 1991 the California Department of Health Services (now DTSC) signed an enforceable Consent Order (CO) with the NESI Investment Group, the prior property owner of the Ascon Landfill site, providing DTSC oversight of all hazardous waste investigations and cleanup operations for the site.

Prior to CND's signing of the VCA in 1996, work on the cleanup had been stalled since 1992 because the previous site owner went bankrupt. The current VCA covers only the completion of various documents and not the actual cleanup work.

The VCA calls for the completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the site. A RI is a series of investigations and studies to identify the types and extent of contaminants at a particular site. The RI for Ascon will evaluate existing site investigation reports and other work previously done on the site and perform additional sampling and analysis. The FS provides an evaluation of alternatives for dealing with soil or groundwater contamination at the site. A RAP selects, and invites the public to comment on, a proposed remedial alternative for dealing with contamination at the site.

A baseline health risk assessment has also been conducted. This assessment identifies the chemicals of concern, reviews the concentration levels of the chemicals on the site and assesses level of risk that these chemicals might have on human health and the environment.

SITE HISTORY

The Ascon site operated as an active dump from approximately 1938 through 1984. Much of the waste disposed of on the site in its early years came from oil drilling operations, including drilling muds, wastewater brines and other drilling wastes. Records indicate that from 1957 to 1971, chromic acid, sulfuric acid, aluminum slag, fuel oils, styrene (a form of plastic) and other wastes were also disposed of on the site. From 1971 to 1984, inert solid wastes such as asphalt, concrete, metal, soil and wood were disposed of on the site.

PAST CHARACTERIZATION AND REMEDIAL EFFORTS

A number of agencies have been involved with the site, including the California Department of Health Services (the predecessor to the DTSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Orange County Health Care Agency and the City of Huntington Beach. However, much of the actual sampling activity, investigative work and site study were completed under the direction of the California Department of Health Services and the DTSC.

Ascon Properties, Inc. purchased the site in 1984 but the company was unsuccessful in attempts to utilize the property and went bankrupt in 1989. NESI Investment Group obtained ownership through a foreclosure sale. NESI prepared to remove some of the oily liquids from the lagoons onsite in December 1991 but was ordered to halt removal work in March 1992 after being informed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District about the need for proper air quality permits. The air permits were issued in August 1992, but NESI did not re-start the liquid removal plan. NESI filed for bankruptcy in January 1993.

In May 1993, the property was transferred to Signal Mortgage Company of Long Beach. In November 1995,

Signal Mortgage Company entered into an agreement with CND to work with the DTSC on the RI/FS and RAP for the Ascon site. CND signed a voluntary cleanup agreement in May 1996 for DTSC supervision, review and approval of the RI/FS and RAP for the site.

VOLUNTARY CLEANUP AGREEMENTS (VCAs)—HOW THEY WORK

The DTSC began using VCAs in 1993. Under a VCA, an outside party signs an agreement with the DTSC to pay for a certain amount of DTSC supervision of investigation or cleanup of a parcel of contaminated land. The VCA contract spells out the scope of work, terms, conditions, and schedule for conducting site investigation or cleanup activities. Either party in a VCA may terminate the contract by giving 30 days' written notice.

The DTSC's agreement with CND calls for DTSC supervision and review of the RI/FS and RAP for the Ascon site. (See "Introduction" for an explanation of an RI/FS and selection of a RAP). The current VCA contract ends with completion of the RI/FS and selection of a RAP. It does not call for the DTSC to oversee the actual cleanup or remedial work at the site. The existing Consent Order, signed on January 1991, for this site is still valid and DTSC may revise the Consent Order as it deems necessary. The existing VCA contract would have to be amended or a new contract signed by CND in order for DTSC to oversee cleanup work at the Ascon site. DTSC supervision of the actual cleanup work would be required to issue a certification that the site has been properly cleaned up and meets State standards. This could be accomplished under the existing or a revised Consent Order or under another VCA.

CURRENT STATUS OF ASCON CLEANUP

CND has completed additional field work to further characterize the waste materials at the Ascon site and the groundwater beneath the site. Using this additional information and the results of past investigations, CND has prepared the draft RI report. Using the database of all analytical results presented in the draft RI (over 35,000 analytical results) the chemicals of concern and their representative concentrations were identified in the Baseline Health Risk Assessment (BHRA). Based on these chemicals and their respective concentrations, the estimated risk to human health and the environment was calculated and is presented in the draft BHRA for the Ascon Site. These two documents, the RI and BHRA, are being reviewed by DTSC and will be released for public review after the Feasibility Study (FS) has been drafted and approved by DTSC.

As part of the FS, CND has identified over 12 potential technologies that could be used to treat the waste materials at the site. Based on the review of these technologies, CND has identified "excavation with stabilization" as an effective treatment technology. This technology can be applied to approximately 90% of the waste material at the site. Stabilization is a technology which uses mechanical equipment to blend the waste materials with soil, aggregate, and stabilization additives to produce a product which is a recyclable material that can be used for road base or geotechnical fill for construction. The stabilization additives used in the process can be Portland cement, fly ash, lime, or kiln dust while much of the required aggregate can come from the concrete on-site.

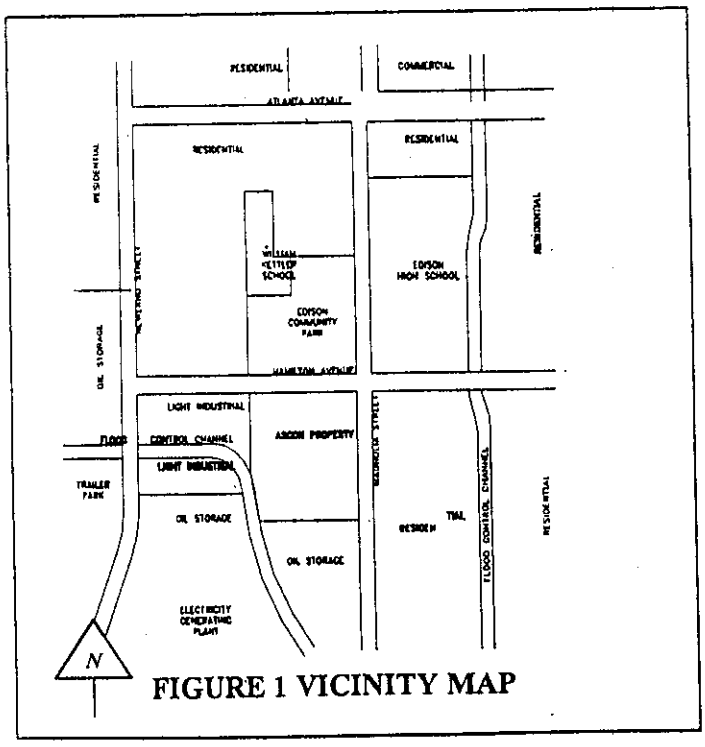

FIGURE 1 VICINITY MAP

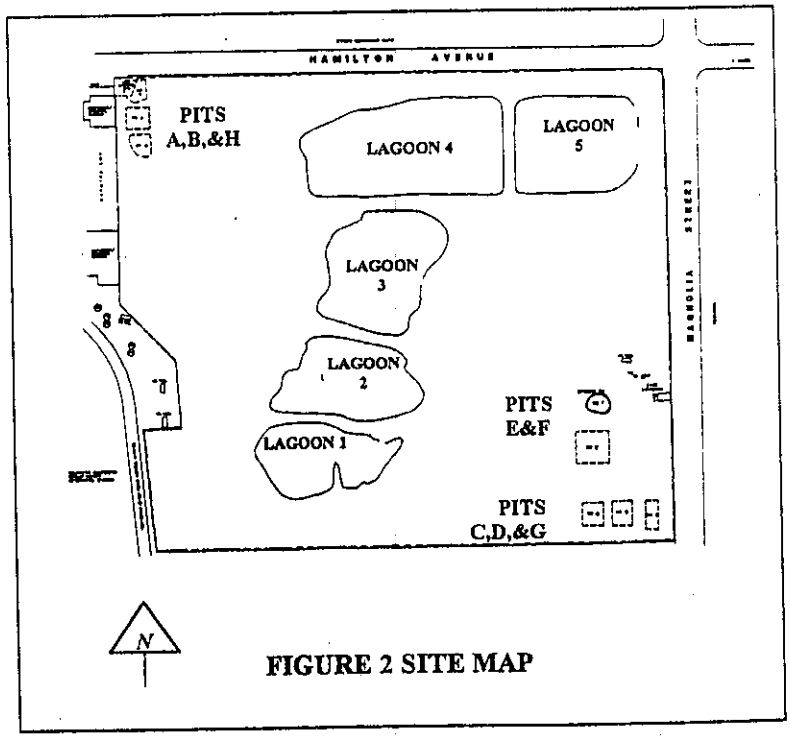

FIGURE 2 SITE MAP

For the lagoons which contain fluid sludges (Lagoons 1 and 2, Figure 2), the FS has identified oil/water/solid separation processes which can treat these materials and produce recyclable oil. The solids generated from these processes can be used in the stabilization process.

The styrene tar in Pit F (and possibly Pit E) which represents less than 1% of the total volume of wastes at the site, will be handled as a separate operable unit (Pit E and F) because of the unique nature of this material: highly odorous, sticky and elastic. The tar will most likely be trucked offsite for treatment under special handling provisions. However, a separate FS and RAP will be developed for this operable unit at a future date.

The remaining 9% of the site materials are those contained in Pits A through D, G and H located in the northwest and southeast corners of the site. Although past analytical testing has indicated that these materials are largely suitable for the stabilization process planned for 90% of the site wastes, additional sampling and analysis will be conducted on these materials. If the contents are not suitable for stabilization, they will be transported to an approved off-site disposal/treatment facility.

UPCOMING EVENTS

To complete the FS, CND will be performing field tests using pilot-scale (small scale) field equipment. These tests will allow CND to generate additional information to be used for the design and implementation of full-scale remediation.

CND is scheduling two field tests under DTSC supervision in the next few months. The first field test, planned for the last week of March, will be a one-day test focusing on two areas: (1) Monitoring and analyzing air emissions associated with the excavation of lagoon wastes, and (2) pilot-scale oil recovery of fluid wastes contained in Lagoons 1 and 2.

Upon completion of this field test, CND and DTSC will publish Fact Sheet Number 5 which will summarize the findings from this field test and present the schedule for the second field test.

The second field test, planned for June 1999, will consist of a pilot-scale stabilization operation to evaluate the quality of the recyclable product produced by various mix ratios of site material and stabilization additives. The test will be conducted in the far southwest corner of the site and will include air emissions monitoring.

Representatives from numerous regulatory agencies will be present on-site for each of the field tests, including the Air Quality Management District, DTSC and the City of Huntington Beach.

For information on these field tests, please contact DTSC or CND at the phone numbers presented under Project Contacts.

Upon completion of the field tests, CND will complete the draft of the FS for DTSC's review. When the RI/FS is approved by DTSC, the DTSC will send out a fact sheet or letter informing the community that the RI/FS is complete, what the conclusions are, and detailing the public opportunity to participate in the RAP process. It is anticipated that the RI/FS work will be completed in the fall of 1999, with a public meeting and a 30-day public comment period on the RAP being held near the end of 1999.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DTSC has a Public Participation policy to ensure effective two-way communication between the public and the DTSC throughout the course of each project. Public participation activities include development and distribution of fact sheets, maintenance of project-related files in a Public Information Repository and, if needed; public meetings. Public Information Repositories and key contacts for this project are listed within this fact sheet. We encourage the public to visit the information repositories or contact the project representatives if you would like additional site information or have concerns about the site.

Past public participation activities on the Ascon site have included fact sheets and other mailings; meetings with the public and the citizens' Ad Hoc Committee that was formed in the mid-1980s. These public outreach activities and others that may be suggested by the public will be continued as site work progresses.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Huntington Beach Public Libraries
Central Park Main Library
Cultural and Information Center
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, Ca
(714) 842-4481

Banning Annex
9281 Banning Ave.
Huntington Beach, Ca
(714) 375-5005

PROJECT CONTACTS

California/Nevada Developments, LLC
- Marina Robertson, Project Manager
  (562) 430-4354 x 108

Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Vicki Tamoush, Public Participation
  (818) 551-2846
- Oussama Issa, Project Manager
  (714) 484-5479

ASCON – Mailing & Comment Coupon

If you are not currently on the Ascon mailing list and wish to be added, please fill out the attached coupon and mail to:

Ms. Vicki Tamoush
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201

☐ Please place me on the mailing list to receive all future material related to this project.

☐ Please remove me from the mailing list.

Name : _____

Affiliation : _____

Address : _____

Comments : _____

_____

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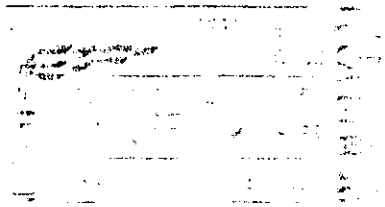
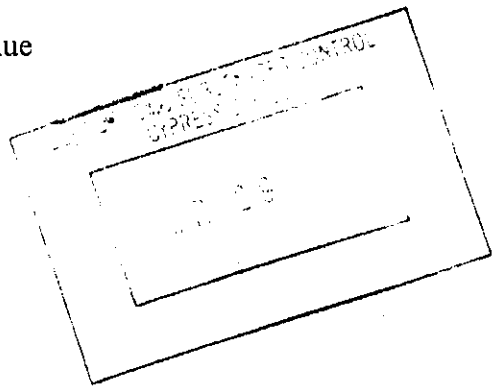
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201



DTSC
Attn: Oussama Issa
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630



ATTENTION:
Update on Cleanup and Planning for Former
Ascon Landfill Site