Public Notice of Remedial Action Plan

Former Gaviota Marine Terminal
16899 Highway 101
Santa Barbara County

November 16, 2015

The Water Board is providing this notification to the property owners, tenants, and interested parties near this soil and groundwater cleanup site to notify you of proposed remediation actions, and to solicit comments. This notification describes the site background, soil and groundwater environmental investigations, and the proposed cleanup project in your neighborhood.

El propósito de este documento es proporcionar información a inquilinos y los propietarios de la zona de los alrededores de la limpieza propuesta en la antiguo Terminal Marina Gaviota. Para obtener información en español, por favor póngase en contacto con Héctor Hernández al (805) 542-4641.

Introduction

The former Gaviota Marine Terminal is located at 16899 Highway 101 in Gaviota (the "site"). Previous operations at the site have resulted in the release of crude oil to the soil and groundwater. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is a regulatory agency responsible for overseeing the soil and groundwater investigations and cleanup.

The party responsible for cleanup of the site's soil and groundwater is the Gaviota Terminal Company (GTC). GTC has conducted investigations to assess the extent and concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons in the subsurface, performed remediation pilot studies, prepared human health and ecological risk assessments, and submitted a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to the Water Board.

The purpose of this public notice is to provide information to property owners and tenants in the surrounding area of the site, regarding the cleanup activities proposed in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) document and to solicit comments on the proposed RAP activities for the site.

Site Background

The site consists of approximately 42.44 acres of land located on the south side of Highway 101 near Gaviota. The first petroleum-related facilities at the site date back to 1896, when the Alcatraz Asphalt Company erected an asphalt processing plant and a deep water wharf. Since 1904, various oil companies used the site for storage of crude oil and offshore loading to tankers. Crude oil was transported to the site from several Central Coast oil fields via pipeline. The loading of tankers was suspended in 1994 and the terminal ceased operation in 2005.

Storage tanks and other above ground structures were removed in 2009, as shown in the aerial photo of the site below.

An aerial view of the site as it appeared prior to the decommissioning of the above ground infrastructure is presented below:

Soil, Groundwater, and Surface Water Investigations

Soil borings have been advanced and sampled at numerous locations at the site. GTC has analyzed more than 1,200 soil samples for petroleum related constituents of concern including total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals. GTC also completed twenty of the soil borings as groundwater monitoring wells. Groundwater samples have been collected from the monitoring wells and analyzed on a quarterly or semiannual basis since July 2011.

TPH as crude oil has been detected in soil at the site in concentrations up to 44,505 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Other petroleum-related analytes were present in relatively low concentrations that did not exceed screening criteria. Concentrations of metals were typical of naturally occurring local background concentrations. Lead was the exception and was found to be above background concentrations in several areas at the site; however, lead does not present a human health risk at the site. Groundwater is present at the site at depths ranging from 0 to 25 feet below ground surface. Groundwater quality beneath the site is generally poor with elevated concentrations of total dissolved solids. Concentrations of dissolved TPH in groundwater samples have ranged up to 12,259 micrograms per liter (µg/L). One monitoring well at the site has contained floating heavy asphalt oil, however the maximum measured thickness was 0.05-foot and has not been measurable in the well since April 2014. Water samples collected onsite from Alcatraz Creek and Cementerio Creek contained TPH as oil at maximum concentrations up to 300 µg/L and 370 µg/L, respectively.

Risk Assessments

GTC completed a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment for the site. Both documents were submitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment for review and approval. The risk assessments were approved in April, 2015. The human health risk assessment indicated that following site cleanup there will be no significant risk to future commercial workers or visitors at the site. There are currently no residences, nor are there plans to construct residences at the site.

GTC also evaluated the potential ecological risks using soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater data collected from the site. The ecological risk assessment concluded that impacts to site ecological communities, including Alcatraz and Cementerio Creeks, were not significant.

Proposed Remediation

The goal of the proposed remediation project is restoration of the site to a more natural landscape, per the Santa Barbara County Code (Article II, Chapter 35, Division 11, Section 35-170). Specifically, the proposed RAP will prevent potential leaching of petroleum hydrocarbons in soil to the shallow groundwater aquifer or impacting surface water. GTC has proposed to accomplish this through excavation of soils containing concentrations of TPH as diesel range organics (TPH-D) greater than 3,600 mg/kg and conducting onsite bioremediation using landfarming techniques. Landfarming is a commonly used technology to reduce concentrations of TPH-D in soils by the consumption of hydrocarbons by naturally-occurring soil bacteria. A Landfarming pilot study conducted at the site in 2013-2014 indicate that this remedial method will effectively reduce TPH-D concentrations to acceptable levels. The RAP proposes the excavation and landfarming of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of impacted soil. Following treatment of the impacted soil, the soils will be graded and compacted in accordance with permits obtained from Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department. After landfarming is complete, groundwater samples will be monitored regularly until natural processes reduce concentrations to acceptable levels.

Public Comment Period

The public has 30 days to comment on the RAP. A copy of the RAP and associated reports are available on GeoTracker (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) at the following website address:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000003719

Open the “Site Maps/Documents” tab on the webpage and scroll to the appropriate title and date to access the desired document. If you would like more information or you need a hardcopy of a report, or if you wish to comment on the information provided, please contact Rich Chandler at the Water Board.

All interested parties are required to submit their comments to the Water Board in writing on or before **December 16, 2015**, for Water Board staff consideration. Comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Rich Chandler
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Tel: (805) 542-4627
rich.chandler@waterboards.ca.gov

If you would like to receive future correspondence on this cleanup site, please contact Mr. Rich Chandler and request to be added to the interested parties' mailing list.

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