
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice of Proposed No Further Action

For

Former Big Oil & Tire Co. Office
211 Railroad Ave.
Blue Lake, California

Case Number 1THU660

Humboldt County

Notice Posting Date: September 19, 2023

End of Comment Period: November 19, 2023

A release of petroleum hydrocarbons was documented, and soil and groundwater investigations were conducted at the above-referenced site. Although some contamination remains, this site meets the conditions for closure under the State Water Resources Control Board's "Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy." Regional Water Board staff proposes that no further work be required. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties, including owners of nearby land, that the case is being considered for closure, and to invite public comment on this proposed decision.

Problem Description

Two 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks (USTs), a pump island, and associated underground piping were removed from the site in 1998 and contaminated soil was over excavated. The primary contaminant of concern (COC) from the former USTs is methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE).

The most recent groundwater monitoring results from the site showed MTBE remains detected above the water quality objective (WQO) in groundwater in site monitoring wells, however it is anticipated that MTBE will reach the WQO within a reasonable timeframe.

Proposed Action

Case closure is proposed. This site meets the conditions for closure under the State Water Resources Control Board's "[Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy](#)" available on the internet at (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/lt_cls_plcy.html).

Unless significant comments are received or new information is presented regarding this site, Regional Water Board staff plans to proceed with the closure process upon conclusion of the comment period. Please contact François Bush at (707) 543-7148 or Francois.Bush@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions or comments. Written comments may also be submitted to:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attention: François Bush
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Regional Water Board site records comprise both a paper file and an electronic file. Beginning in 2005, select file material was uploaded to the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website and not necessarily included in the paper file. All new file material after 2014 is retained only electronically. [The GeoTracker records](#) are available at (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0602300460).

The paper file ("Big Oil Tire Company Office", Case No. 1THU660) may be reviewed at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board office from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are recommended and can be arranged by calling (707) 576-2220.