



# Casmalia Resources Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • JULY 2004

## EPA Proposes Cashout Settlement with *De Minimis* Waste Generators

This fact sheet announces a comment period for a proposed settlement that will provide additional funds for the Casmalia Resources Site and also provides an update of Site activity.

### PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

The U.S. Government has proposed a settlement involving 192 parties to provide \$11.9 million in additional cleanup funds for the Casmalia Resources Site located near the town of Casmalia, California. The comment period on this proposed settlement will run until August 13, 2004.

Commenters may request a public meeting by contacting Karen Goldberg at 415-972-3951 or 415-369-0559 ext. 10. The deadline for requesting a public meeting is July 19, 2004. If a public meeting is requested, EPA will publish a meeting notice in the Santa Maria Times and send a notice to those on the Casmalia mailing list.

The parties to this settlement agreed to settle but raised issues that needed to be resolved, such as waste quantity and ability to pay. The settlement resolves the parties' liability to the United States for cleanup costs and, for most parties, natural resource damages. It requires each settling party to pay its pro rata share of total estimated Site costs based on volume plus a premium on projected future costs.

Written comments postmarked no later than August 13, 2004 should be submitted to: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Casmalia Resources Team, attn: Karen Goldberg (RC-3), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA, 94105. You may fax comments to her by August 13, 2004 at (415) 947-3570 or send e-mail comments by August 13, 2004 to [goldberg.karen@epa.gov](mailto:goldberg.karen@epa.gov).

The EPA will consider all comments it receives during this period and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if any comments disclose facts or considerations indicating that the settlement is inappropriate, improper or inadequate.

**Proposed *De Minimis* Settlement**  
**Public Comment Period**  
**Ends August 13, 2004**



Figure 1: Casmalia Resources Superfund Site

## What is an RI/FS?



*Three-volume final version of RI/FS Workplan*

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to identify chemical contaminants in the soil, groundwater and surface water, determine the areas that are affected and assess the human and ecological risks associated with the contamination. Based on the RI analysis, the Feasibility Study (FS) will define which risks should be reduced and will evaluate different methods to reduce those risks. Based on the RI/FS and comments received from the public on the

proposed cleanup plan, EPA will then select the final remedy or remedies for the Casmalia Resources Site and document the selection in a Record of Decision (ROD).

## OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

In 2003, EPA completed several settlements that netted over \$40 million for conducting Site cleanup activities (see June 2003 fact sheet). Also last year, EPA sent General Notice letters to approximately 400 de minimis parties to notify them of their potential liability for a share of the cost of cleanup. EPA will send General Notice letters to approximately 100 additional parties. EPA plans to send settlement offers to these 500 parties beginning this year and continuing into next year.

## RI/FS WORKPLAN

The Casmalia Steering Committee (CSC) submitted its fourth and final version of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Workplan on June 7, 2004. This version is the product of efforts from the authors (CSC), as well as federal and state regulatory agencies that provided numerous comments over the past three years.

The Workplan contains an evaluation of historical data and a more complete plan for collecting data to evaluate the Casmalia Resources Site's risk to the environment and human health. More than 2,000 sample locations have been selected including both groundwater and soil samples, and more than 600 chemicals of concern will be investigated. Plans are underway to begin the first phase of sampling in July.

EPA and the state agencies have developed a Field and Laboratory Quality Assurance program to ensure the quality of the data collected. The agencies will have observers in the field to monitor the CSC's sample collection and will collect duplicate samples to be analyzed at EPA-selected labs. In addition, we will provide the CSC's labs with spiked samples (samples with concentrations known to EPA) and will audit the CSC's contracted laboratories.

The samples collected this summer will be analyzed, the data reviewed and evaluated, and the potential need for additional samples will be identified. The second phase of sampling will be conducted in 2004 or in Spring 2005. The schedule for the RI/FS completion is 2005.

EPA plans to conduct a community meeting in Fall 2004 to update the public on Site activities, including the progress of the RI/FS. In 2005, EPA will hold another meeting to discuss the results of the RI/FS field work.

The Workplan contains two unresolved issues that do not affect the rest of the RI/FS Workplan. The two outstanding issues include: a) the type of drilling to be used to collect data from the pesticide/solvent landfill where there is a potential for hitting drummed waste; and b) identifying regulations that are applicable to future activities. These two issues will be resolved and documented in addenda to the Workplan, or as otherwise specified by EPA. Fieldwork related to these issues is also expected to be performed this summer.



Figure 2: *Installation of two hazardous waste tanks*

## **HAZARDOUS WASTE TANK REPLACEMENT**

The Site has six above-ground storage tanks, commonly referred to as the “Six Pack Tanks,” for temporary storage of liquids extracted from the Gallery Well and Sump 9B (see Figure 1). Two of these tanks were taken out of service in 1998, and a third one was taken out of service in June 2003 due to pinhole leaks. In addition, the containment pad on which the tanks sit was cracked. In May, 2003, EPA directed the CSC to develop a plan to address the problems. After several revisions, the CSC provided a Plan that was approved by EPA in December. Actions completed so far include:

- installation of two new tanks, TS-7 and TS-8, to replace the 20 year-old tanks
- removal of tanks TS-1, TS-2, and preparation of tanks TS-3 and TS-4 for removal
- inspection and pressure-testing of tanks TS-5 and TS-6, which were repaired and determined to be in acceptable condition (leak-free). These tanks will be used to store contaminated groundwater pumped from the Perimeter Source Control Trench (PSCT)
- repairing and recoating the containment pad

## **PERIMETER AIR MONITORING**

Progress has been made toward monitoring air contaminants at the southern perimeter of the site. After identifying an instrument capable of generating accurate data on a continuous basis, EPA directed the CSC to install two photo-ionization instruments (PIDs) made by Rae Systems (“ppbRae”). The CSC leased the two ppbRae PIDs and performed a one-month startup period in November-December.

The CSC’s contractor made minor modifications to the system, and in December, the CSC began regular monitoring. A Quarterly Monitoring Report was produced at the end of the March; however, EPA and the State agencies made numerous comments on the Report, focusing on the lack of data quality assessment and data interpretation. The CSC will make the corrections on future quarterly reports.

## **SITE OPERATIONS / IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Treatment Plant**

Contaminated groundwater is pumped from three extraction facilities downgradient of the landfills and is treated in six Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) units. (A second treatment unit, the Ameripure Treatment System, will no longer be used at the site.)

Following several Site releases last year, EPA directed the CSC to begin implementing a preventative maintenance program that resulted in: the replacement of treatment plant fittings; inspection and replacement of carbon treatment

vessels; an upgrade of the treatment plant piping to high density polyethylene; and the submittal and agencies' approval of seven Standard Operating Procedures.

As a result of these fast-tracked measures, there is less potential for future releases at the treatment plant.

### **Preventative Maintenance (PM)**

At EPA's direction, the CSC proposed a plan for preventative maintenance for the Site. The CSC purchased, installed and programmed software that lists and describes the PM actions and prompts Site staff when to perform the activity. Site staff now receive a weekly list of necessary PM tasks, and the activities they perform are logged into the computer. This PM program will help ensure that the Site is operated and maintained in an efficient and safe manner.

### **Stormwater Discharge**

The CSC applied for a stormwater discharge permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board that allows them to discharge water from the capped landfills into the (offsite) B Drainage. However, prior to discharging this past winter, EPA was made aware of existing erosion damage downgradient of the discharge point that also threatens three offsite monitoring wells.

EPA worked with the Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and received approval to repair the erosion, which we plan to do subject to receiving a signed agreement with the adjacent property owner. EPA plans to have offsite stormwater discharges during the coming rainy season.

### **For further information, please contact:**

**David Cooper** (SFD-3)

Community Involvement Coordinator  
(415) 972-3237

**Kent Kitchingman** (SFD-7-1)

Remedial Project Manager  
(415) 972-3142  
EPA  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**or leave a message on our toll-free line:  
800-231-3075**

### **Information Repositories**

You may review extensive background information related to the Casmalia Resources Superfund Site, at either of the following:

Santa Maria Library  
420 South Broadway  
Santa Maria, California  
(805-925-0994)

EPA Superfund Records Center  
95 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California  
(415-536-2000)

**or visit :**

**[http://www.epa.gov/region09/  
waste/sfund/npl/siteinfo.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/npl/siteinfo.htm)**

- 1) Click on "Site Overview and Information"**
- 2) Click on "Casmalia Disposal Site"**

