



DENOVA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. REMOVAL SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, California • June 2002

Rialto, CA

At the request of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has assumed responsibility for the immediate removal of hazardous and explosive waste stored at the Denova Environmental, Inc. site. EPA has quickly mobilized an emergency team and arranged for 24-hour site security. The EPA team will spend the next few weeks identifying the toxic wastes at the facility and then removing them from the site.

The Site

The Denova Environmental, Inc. site (previously known as Broco Environmental, Inc.) is located at 2610 North Alder Avenue, Rialto, CA, San Bernardino County. The facility formerly operated as a hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility and an explosives manufacturing business. It occupies 25 acres divided into three yards: the blast pit yard, the hazmat yard, and the explosives yard.

The Immediate Concern

The immediate threats at the site were the lack of security measures to keep the public off the property and the improper identification and unsafe storage of hazardous chemicals and explosive materials. The owner and operator of the facility was ordered by DTSC to address these threats at the facility but did not comply within the assigned time frame.

What Has Been Done So Far?

EPA's emergency response team came into action with assistance from DTSC, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the San Bernardino County Fire Department HazMat Team, the San Bernardino County Bomb Squad and the Rialto Fire Department. The EPA is now providing 24-hour security for the site. EPA conducted a preliminary site inventory and found: 750 various-sized containers of hazardous materials including mercury, highly corrosive acids, flammable com-

pounds and other substances; 55 drums of corrosive and flammable wastes; six mobile concrete bomb shelters containing highly explosive materials; and various storage containers of ordnance in the hazmat yard. In the explosives yard, EPA found 15 partially-buried explosive storage bunkers containing highly explosive materials and additional boxes of highly explosive materials and propellants.

EPA continues to inventory and sample hazardous chemicals and explosive materials on site. All hazardous substances and explosive materials will be identified, removed from the site and properly stored or disposed of. If any unstable explosives are identified, they may be destroyed on site in the blast pit area. After any detonation procedures, air and soil samples will be taken to ensure no trace of the material is left. EPA will take all precautions necessary to protect public health and the environment. The EPA will pursue enforcement action against potentially liable parties to recover cleanup costs.

Keeping the Community Informed

EPA will continue to keep the community informed of site activities either by door-to-door notices or fact sheets. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Calanog, On Scene Coordinator at (415) 972-3075 or Jackie Lane, Community Involvement Coordinator at (415) 972-3236, or leave a message on EPA's toll free number, (800) 231-3075, and your call will be returned. If you are not on the site mailing list but would like to be added, please call the 800 number.

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