



United States Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest Region

Halaco Engineering Company Removal Action, March 2007

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Emergency Response Section, has been conducting a stabilization action at the Halaco Engineering Company, Inc. (Halaco) located at 6200 Perkins Ave., Oxnard, California, which began on February 5, 2007. As part of this action, EPA closed the Perkins Road entrance to the Ormond Beach Wetlands on March 2, 2007 to prevent exposure to newly discovered low-level radioactive waste process solids from the Halaco facility.

Closure of Ormond Beach Wetlands

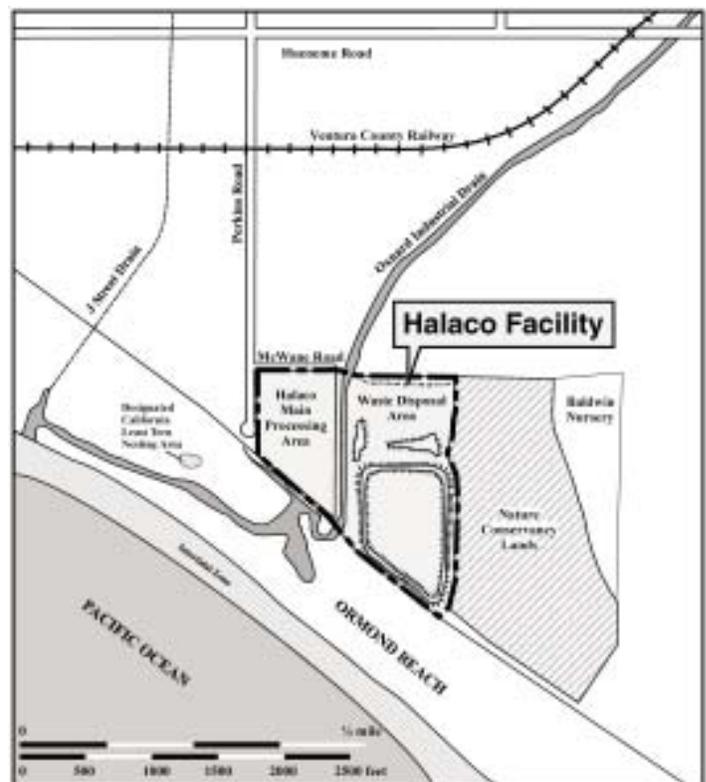
Scientists from EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Environment's National Laboratory discovered the presence of waste process solids in the Ormond Beach Wetlands during an assessment of the properties surrounding Halaco. The assessment documents low levels of radioactive thorium in the material. To prevent exposure to members of the public or their pets, EPA will close access into the Ormond Beach Wetlands from Perkins Road and the J Street drain. EPA expects the closure, which began March 2nd, to last up to one month. EPA will remove the contaminated materials from the wetlands, and then they will be reopened to the public.

Site History

Halaco Engineering Company began operation as a metal reclaiming facility at 6200 Perkins Road in Oxnard in 1965. The approximately 38-acre facility consists of two separate parcels on either side of the Oxnard Industrial Drain: a smelter and a waste disposal area (which includes the waste management unit, or WMU). Different types of waste were deposited on the WMU including heavy metals and radioactive contaminated slag (a byproduct of the smelting process). It is estimated that more than 710,000 cubic yards of waste make up the WMU. Halaco also deposited waste in the area north of the WMU. The smelter itself contains in excess of 5,000 cubic yards of waste similar to the waste at the WMU.

Halaco's waste disposal practices have been cited by federal, state and local authorities for many years. The facility received various orders and notices of violation from EPA, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Health Services Radiological Health Branch, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the City of Oxnard Fire Department.

In 2002, Halaco filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. In 2006, after Halaco ceased operations, the bankruptcy was converted to a Chapter 7 (liquidation) bankruptcy. Later that year, Chickadee Remediation Co purchased the waste management area and assumed the lease to the former smelter property. Alpha and Omega Development LLC subsequently acquired the waste management area from Chickadee. Future use of the property remains uncertain.



Location of Halaco Engineering Co.

Halaco Engineering Company, Removal Action

For More Information

You can find fact sheets and other site cleanup information on our website at: <http://www.epaosc.net/Halaco>. You can also pick up fact sheets at the Onsite Command Post listed below. If you have questions or concerns about the Halaco site, please do not hesitate to contact either of the USEPA staff listed below.

Robert Wise

USEPA On-Scene Coordinator
(562) 889 - 2572 (cell)
wise.robert@epa.gov

José García (Habla Español)

Community Involvement Coordinator
(415) 972-3331
(800) 231-3075 (toll free)
garcia.jose@epa.gov

Onsite Command Post

West end of the 700 block of McWane Blvd.

Site Repository

South Oxnard Branch Library

4300 Saviers Rd.
Oxnard, CA. 93033
(805) 385-8129
Hours: Mon. -Thur 9:00am - 8:00pm
Sat 9:00am - 5:30pm

EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000
Hours: Mon-Fri : 8:00am - 5:00pm

For more site information visit the EPA Region 9 web page www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/superfundsites.html, select "Site Overviews" and click on "Halaco".

EL SITIO OMEGA CHEMICAL

Estimado Residente: Si prefiere este folleto en español, por favor llame (800) 231-3075 y deje su nombre y domicilio. Se lo enviaremos inmediatamente.

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: José García (HEC 3/07)

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