



Celtor Chemical Works Superfund Site

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 • San Francisco, California • August 2003

U.S. EPA Proposes to Remove Celtor Site from Superfund List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is proposing to remove the Celtor Chemical Works Superfund Site, located on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, from the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a nationwide list of hazardous waste sites which have been identified for cleanup under the federal Superfund program. Removal of the site from the NPL means that the cleanup of contamination has been completed. If new information becomes available which indicates a need for further action, EPA may initiate further cleanup activities.

Public Comment Process

As part of the process to remove the Celtor Chemical Works Superfund Site from the NPL, U.S. EPA and Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA are holding a public meeting on August 13, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Facility Building off Highway 96 just south of Loop Road. The purpose of this meeting is to review the cleanup and monitoring activities that have taken place at the site and to take questions and comments. During this meeting we encourage the public to provide comments on the removal of the site from the NPL. If you do not wish to make comments at the meeting, all written and oral comments should be submitted to:

Beatriz Bofill
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-7-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3260
bofill.beatriz@epa.gov

Cleanup Activities

Soon after the Superfund Program was created in 1980, the Celtor Chemical Works site was listed on the National Priorities List and designated for cleanup. In 1983, U.S. EPA undertook action and excavated several hundred cubic yards of visibly contaminated materials. This material included tailings, non-concrete structures, and a portion of the pasture adjacent to the site. The main portion of the site was fenced, and the access road was covered with gravel. The flow of several springs was diverted away from the contaminated areas and into a nearby creek, which emptied into the Trinity River.

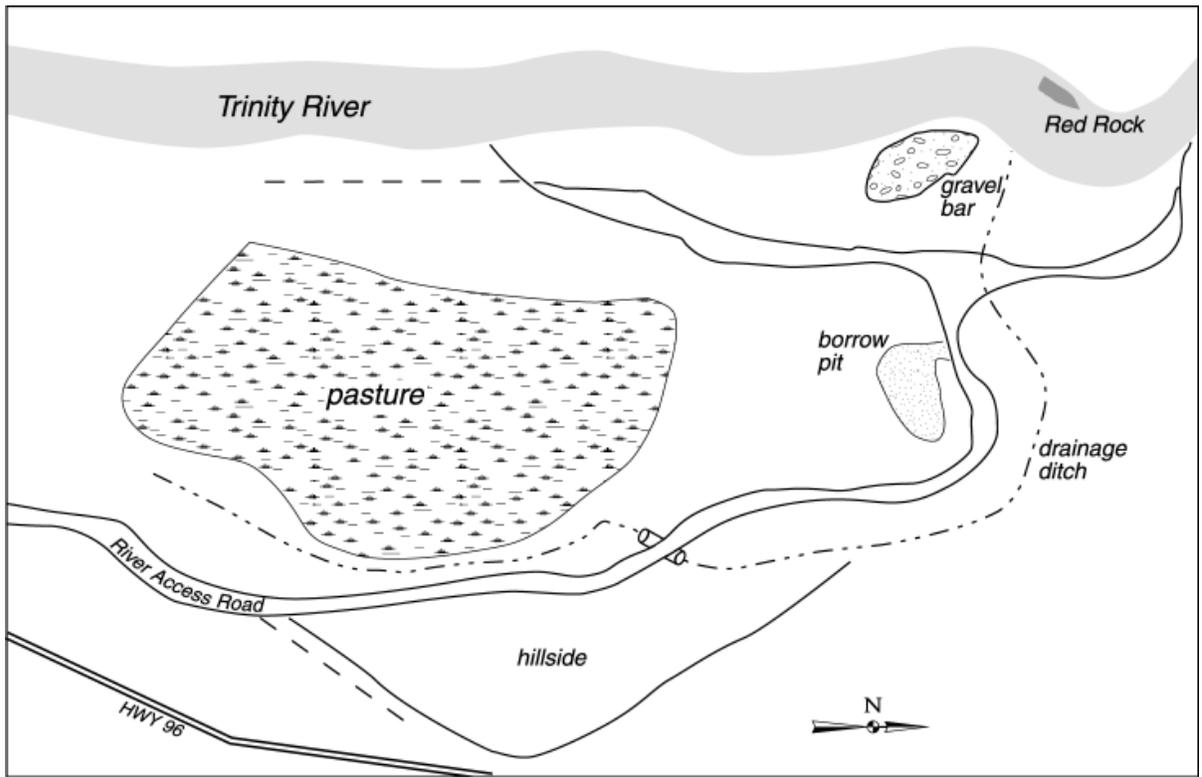
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Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2003

6:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Facility Building
off Highway 96 - just south of Loop Road



Celtor Chemical Works Superfund Site

The site consists of a hillside that was reconstructed after remediation of the former plant site to create a more natural state, an adjacent pasture used for grazing livestock, a gully connecting the plant and the Trinity River, a ditch, and a fishing access road that is frequently used by local residents. There are approximately 900 people living within three miles of the site. The Trinity River, which supports the only fish resources for the Hoopa Tribe, flows through the center of the reservation and near the site.

History

The two-acre Celtor Chemical Works site, located on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, is a former ore concentrating facility that processed sulfide ore for copper, zinc, and precious metal extraction. On behalf of the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe, The Bureau of Indian Affairs leased the land to the Celtor Chemical Corporation in 1958. From 1958 until 1962, copper, zinc, and precious metals from the nearby Copper Bluff Mine were trucked to Celtor for processing. In 1962, Celtor Chemical Corporation abandoned the site, and the mine tailings generated from the milling operations were left there. These tailings, along with releases of processed ore, were thought to be the cause of acidic surface water runoff and elevated metals concentrations in the soils throughout the site. Potential health threats to people included accidental ingestion or inhalation of contaminated soil and dust.

In mid-1987, after a comprehensive study of the entire site, U.S. EPA selected a cleanup remedy in consultation with the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe and the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and with help from the public. The primary potential health threats at the time were direct contact with contaminated soils and consumption of surface water runoff from the site. To address these health concerns, from 1987 to 1989 the EPA excavated an additional 1,400 cubic yards of contaminated soils from the site and disposed of them off site at an EPA-approved hazardous waste disposal facility.

Monitoring the Cleanup

To ensure that these cleanup actions have remained protective of human health and the environment, EPA took samples of site soils in May 2003. A total of 38 soil samples and five surface water samples were taken to ensure that no contaminants of concern remained on the site that were above cleanup goals and, therefore, a threat to human health or the environment. The sampling results were reviewed by U.S. EPA, Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA, and DTSC. Sample results confirmed that the site was free of contaminants above cleanup goals. Therefore, EPA, Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA and DTSC have concluded that the soils do not pose an unacceptable health hazard for residential or unrestricted land use.

What Happens Next

A 30-day public comment period starts from the day the Notice of Intent to Delete is published in the Federal Register. When this publication occurs, we will inform you of the dates of the public comment period. Once the comment period is over, U.S. EPA will review the comments and prepare a responsiveness summary for all the comments received. The responsiveness summary will be available in the local repository and will be published in the Federal Register along with the Notice of Deletion. This notice is the formal notification that announces the deletion of the site from the NPL. Removal of the site from the NPL means that the cleanup of contamination has been completed. If new information becomes available which indicates a need for further action, U.S. EPA may initiate further cleanup activities.

Information Repositories

Local Repository

Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA
Site One Cannery Road
Hoopa, CA 95546
(530) 625-5515

Superfund Records Center

EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Contact Information

U.S. EPA contact

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DTSC contact

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