



# Halaco Engineering Company

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA  
Oxnard, CA

February 2007

## U.S. EPA Issues Integrated Assessment Report for the Halaco Engineering Company Site

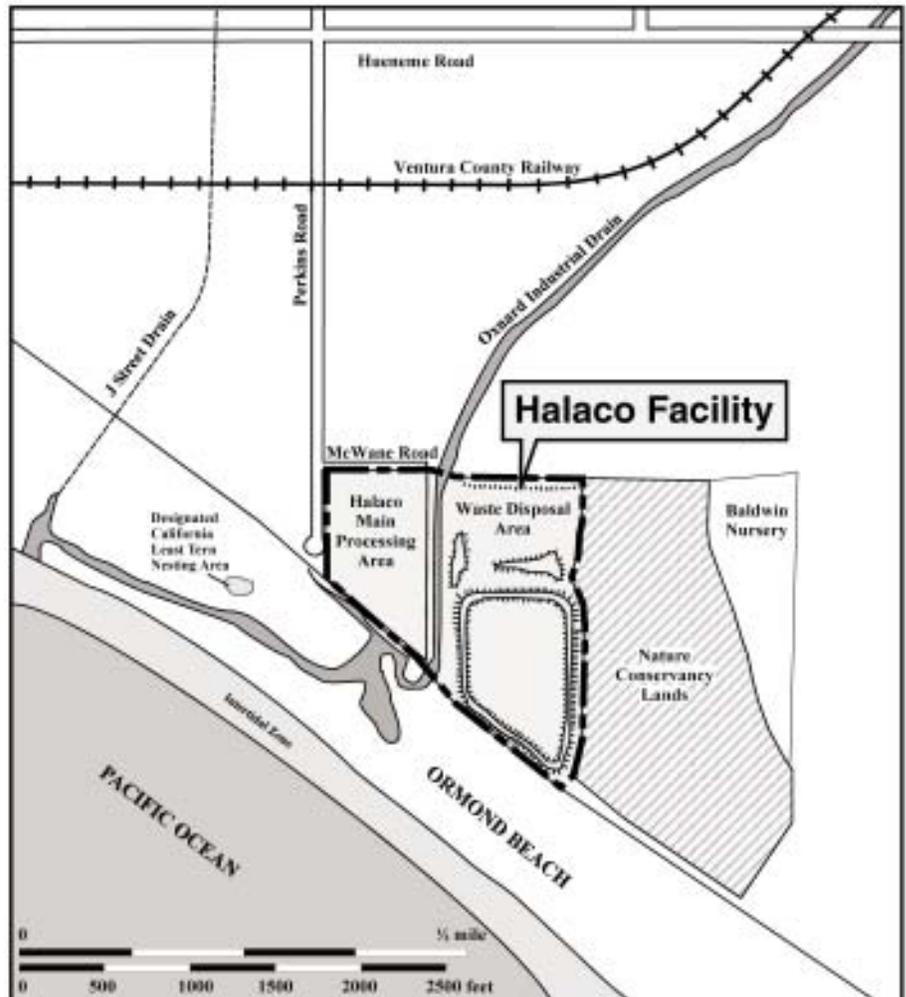
### U.S. EPA's Integrated Site Assessment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an Integrated Assessment Report for the Halaco Engineering Company (Halaco) site. This report documents EPA's recent site investigation and the need for additional short- and long-term response actions to address environmental and human health risks posed by the Halaco site. A full copy of the Integrated Assessment Report can be downloaded from EPA's web site (<http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/sfund/superfundsites.html>) by clicking on "Site Overviews," then "Halaco." EPA has also established a local information repository where you can read this report and related information about the Halaco site (Please see the back page of this factsheet for more information on the repository.) This Fact Sheet provides a summary of EPA's investigation and next steps.

### Site Background

The Halaco Engineering Company operated a metal recycling facility at 6200 Perkins Road in Oxnard, California from 1965 to 2004. The Halaco facility is adjacent to the Ormond Beach wetlands and is in close proximity to the Ormond Beach Lagoon, Ormond Beach and the Pacific Ocean. Halaco terminated operations in Fall 2004, and its financial assets are currently being liquidated in a bankruptcy proceeding.

The Halaco facility consists of two parcels bisected by the Oxnard Industrial Drain (OID). The inactive smelter is located on an 11-acre parcel on the west side of the OID. The 26-acre waste disposal area is located to the east of the OID. Scrap metal, including low-level radioactive material, was processed at the smelter. Liquid and



Location of Halaco Engineering Co.

solid wastes were disposed in the OID, and on both the waste disposal and smelter parcels.

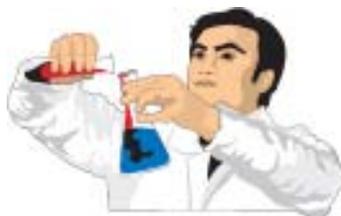
The Ormond Beach wetlands are one of the few large-scale wetlands that remain along the Southern California coast. These coastal wetlands are home to several endangered and threatened species, such as the western snowy plover and California least tern.

Contamination sources include waste stored within process buildings on the smelter parcel and waste piles on the waste disposal parcel. EPA estimates the smelter parcel has in excess of 5,000 cubic yards of waste and the waste disposal parcel has approximately 500,000 cubic yards of waste.

## What Has EPA Found?

In June 2006, EPA collected samples from the Halaco site and adjacent properties and environments, including nearby residential areas, wetlands, near-shore sediments and Ormond Beach. These samples of soil, waste, sediment, groundwater, surface water, air, and fish tissue were analyzed in a laboratory to determine the presence and concentration of certain contaminants. Based on this sampling, EPA confirmed that there is contamination at the Halaco facility, on the smelter and waste disposal parcels. Compounds found include aluminum, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, magnesium, manganese, nickel, silver, zinc, cesium-137, potassium-40, thorium-228, thorium-230 and thorium-232. EPA also found evidence that wastes from the Halaco facility have moved into adjacent beach and wetlands, OID sediments and underlying groundwater. Limited sampling in a nearby residential area did not show elevated levels of site contaminants.

Based on the results of this site assessment and prior investigations conducted by other agencies, EPA has concluded that the Halaco site will require additional cleanup to properly address the environmental and human health risks associated with the site.



## The Public Should Not Enter the Halaco Facility

The Halaco site poses potential health risks from site contaminants, particularly at the waste disposal parcel where people have been known to walk, jog, and ride dirt bikes. Abandoned buildings and old equipment at the site also pose safety hazards. EPA plans to conduct further sampling and analysis in 2007 and 2008 to determine the level of risk to nearby communities and in the adjacent wetlands, agricultural, and beach areas. The public should not enter the Halaco facility.

## What Are EPA's Next Steps?

EPA, in consultation with the State of California, is considering adding the Halaco site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is reserved for the nation's highest priority sites. Listing the Halaco site on the NPL would make it eligible for long-term cleanup funding.

In July 2006, EPA entered into an agreement with the owners of the smelter property to install fencing, remove drums and other containers of hazardous substances, consolidate loose process solids, and take other steps to improve site security and stabilize on-site waste. The work was largely completed in August and September 2006. Beginning in February 2007, EPA expects additional work to be completed to stabilize and secure the site and limit offsite migration of contaminated wastes. The work will include regrading the waste pile to reduce the steepness of the slopes, placing matting on the slopes to reduce erosion, stabilizing the banks along the lower portion of the OID, constructing berms around some smelter buildings to keep waste materials inside the buildings, making improvements to better manage stormwater runoff, and improving site security. This additional work will be completed by EPA and its contractors.

In February 2007, EPA plans to further evaluate the low levels of radiation detected on Ormond Beach. Later in 2007, EPA will evaluate the need for other short-term actions and will begin planning comprehensive site studies to evaluate site risks and cleanup options.

# How to Contact Us

The following EPA staff members are involved with the Halaco site:



**Wayne Praskins**  
 Remedial Project Manager  
 U.S. EPA  
 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-7-3)  
 San Francisco, CA. 94105  
 (415) 972-3181  
 praskins.wayne@epa.gov



**Rob Wise**  
 On-scene Coordinator  
 U.S. EPA  
 2250 Obispo Ave., Suite 101 (SFD-9-2)  
 Signal Hill, CA. 90755  
 (562) 986-6180  
 wise.robert@epa.gov



**Matt Mitguard**  
 Site Assessment Manager  
 U.S. EPA  
 75 Hawthorne St (SFD-9-1)  
 San Francisco, CA. 94105  
 (415) 972-3096  
 mitguard.matt@epa.gov



**José García**  
 Community Involvement Coordinator  
 U.S. EPA  
 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3)  
 San Francisco, CA. 94105  
 (415) 972-3331  
 garcia.jose@epa.gov

You may also call EPA's toll-free Superfund hotline and leave a message that will be forwarded to the appropriate EPA staff. The hotline number is 1-800-231-3075.



## Mailing List Coupon

To be included on EPA's Halaco site mailing list, please send the coupon below to José García, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3), San Francisco, CA 94105.  
 Email: garcia.jose@epa.gov

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Site Repository

### South Oxnard Branch Library

4300 Saviers Rd.  
Oxnard, CA. 93033  
(805) 385-8129  
Hours: Mon. -Thur 10:30-8:00pm  
Sat 9:00am-5:30pm



### EPA Superfund Records Center

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

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



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United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: José García (HEC 1/07)

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