

**DECLARATION FOR THE
EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES
OMEGA CHEMICAL CORPORATION SITE, OPERABLE UNIT 2
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Site Name and Location

Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site
Los Angeles County, California
EPA ID: CAD042245001

Lead Agency

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Support Agency

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Statement of Purpose

This Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site (Site) Operable Unit 2 is being issued to document changes to the remedy selected in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) September 2011 Record of Decision (ROD). EPA is publishing this ESD pursuant to Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9617(c), and the National Contingency Plan (NCP) at 40 C.F.R. § 300.435(c)(2)(i). EPA consulted with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) during the development of the ESD. DTSC concurred with the changes described in the ESD on April 14, 2016.

Statutory Basis for Issuance of the ESD

Pursuant to CERCLA Section 117(c) and 40 C.F.R. § 300.435(c)(2)(i), if EPA determines that a remedial action being undertaken at a site differs significantly from the ROD for that site, EPA shall publish an ESD and the reasons such changes are being made.

According to 40 C.F.R. § 300.435(c)(2)(i), and EPA guidance (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Directive 9200.1-23P, July 1999), an ESD, rather than a ROD Amendment, is appropriate where the adjustments being made to the ROD are significant but do not fundamentally alter the remedy with respect to scope, performance, or cost. EPA has determined that the adjustments to the ROD provided in this ESD are significant but do not fundamentally alter the overall remedy for the Site with respect to scope, performance, or cost.

Background

The Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1999. EPA began the Remedial Investigation (RI) at the Site in 2001. In 2010, EPA completed a feasibility study that evaluates six remedial alternatives and published a proposed cleanup plan that describes EPA's preferred remedial alternative. After considering public comments on the plan, EPA selected a remedy that included the construction and operation of one or more groundwater extraction wells to pump contaminated groundwater to the surface; water treatment facilities to remove contaminants from the groundwater; and delivery of the treated groundwater to one or more drinking water purveyors or reinjection of the treated water into the aquifer.

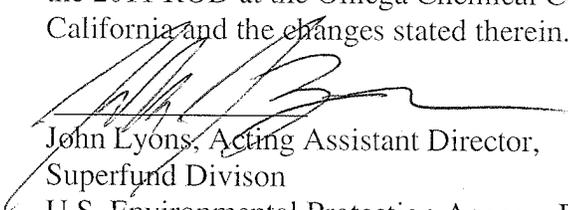
Overview of the 2016 ESD

This ESD documents four changes to the 2011 ROD.

1. The ESD adds two possible end-uses of the groundwater after it has been pumped to the surface and the contaminants removed: i) delivery to an existing "reclaimed" water system for irrigation and industrial use ("reclaimed use"); and ii) return to the groundwater basin using an existing "spreading basin" ("spreading"). The reclaimed and spreading end-uses would occur offsite. Permits must be obtained for offsite actions.
2. The ESD removes a preference established in the ROD for a drinking water use.
3. The ESD adds a new drinking water standard, the 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) State of California Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium, as a potential treatment requirement.
4. The ESD updates EPA's cleanup cost estimates to reflect the new treatment requirement for hexavalent chromium, the more stringent treatment requirement for 1,4-dioxane described in the 2011 ROD, and to correct an error in the 2011 cost estimate.

Declaration

EPA has determined that the 2011 ROD's findings with regard to the remedy selected are still applicable with the modifications to the remedy made through this ESD. EPA has determined that the revised remedy is protective of human health and the environment. For the foregoing reasons and as explained herein, by my signature below, I approve the issuance of the ESD for the 2011 ROD at the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site in Los Angeles County, California and the changes stated therein.


John Lyons, Acting Assistant Director,
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

June 10, 2016
Date