



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT,  
DRAFT STATEMENT OF BASIS, AND PROPOSED PLAN**

**PG&E TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION - GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION PROJECT**

**Unincorporated San Bernardino County (Near Needles, California)**

**Public Comment Period: June 4 - July 19, 2010**

**WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED**

This is to provide notification that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is making available for review and comment a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a draft Statement of Basis for implementation of cleanup activities of contaminated groundwater at the PG&E Topock Compressor Station (Station) near Needles, California. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is concurrently making available for review and comment a Proposed Plan for the same project. The draft EIR evaluates the potential for environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the final remedy as described in the draft Statement of Basis. The draft Statement of Basis identifies the description of the "final remedy" and background on the selection process. DTSC is the lead agency responsible for oversight on the environmental investigation and cleanup of groundwater contamination at the Station under California Health & Safety Code, Chapter 6.5, and for preparation of the EIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000). DOI is the lead federal agency for the oversight on the site cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and is issuing this Proposed Plan pursuant to Section 117 of CERCLA and Section 300.430(f)(2) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Station is located approximately 12-miles southeast of Needles, California and 1,500 feet west of the Colorado River. In 1951, the Station began compressing natural gas for transportation through pipelines to PG&E's service territory in Central and Northern California. From 1951 to 1985, chromium was used as an additive to control corrosion in the cooling towers and in some equipment. During parts of those years, cooling tower wastewater containing hexavalent chromium was discharged directly to the ground surface. Over time, the hexavalent chromium seeped into the groundwater and created a contaminated groundwater plume, which now extends from below the Station to beneath the Colorado River. In 1985, PG&E discontinued the use of hexavalent chromium. In 1996, PG&E signed an agreement with DTSC to conduct environmental investigations to identify and cleanup past operational releases to the environment.

The proposed project includes the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a proposed final remedy for groundwater contamination at the Station. The final remedy, referred to as Alternative E-In Situ with Freshwater Flushing, consists of the installation of injection, extraction, and monitoring wells, as well as supporting infrastructure including access roads, pipelines, utility connections, and storage tanks. Construction of the remediation system would occur over approximately three years. Operation and maintenance activities are estimated at 29 years, but could range between 10 and 110 years. Decommissioning of the Alternative E remediation system would occur after cleanup goals are met. Decommissioning activities could last for approximately two years. Additional long-term monitoring of the groundwater is estimated to occur for ten years after decommissioning. The proposed remedy also includes monitored natural attenuation as a potential long-term component to address any remaining contamination that may remain in portions of the groundwater after treatment. The Interim Measures treatment system currently operating would be decommissioned once Alternative E is functioning adequately.

**GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65962.5 LISTING**

The project area does not appear on any of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Station's proximity to the nearest school is over a mile.

**ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

The EIR has determined that the proposed project would result in significant effects to the following environmental resource areas, and includes mitigation measures to minimize, reduce, or avoid significant impacts: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Water Supply. Mitigation measures are included for all of the identified significant impacts, and, with the exception of cultural resources and noise, would reduce impacts to below identified significance thresholds.

**PERIOD TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENTS**

DTSC is accepting comments on the draft EIR and draft Statement of Basis from June 4 - July 19, 2010. DOI will also be accepting comments on the Proposed Plan during the same period.

## **LOCATIONS OF OPEN HOUSES / PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Tuesday, June 22, 2010  
Parker Community/Senior Center  
1115 12th St.  
Parker, Arizona 85344  
Open House 5:00 – 6:30 pm  
Public Hearing 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Needles High School  
1600 Washington Street  
Needles, CA 92363  
Open House 5:00 – 6:30 pm  
Public Hearing 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, June 23, 2010  
Lake Havasu Aquatic Center  
100 Park Ave.  
Lake Havasu City, AZ  
Open House 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
Public Hearing 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, June 30, 2010  
Topock Elementary School  
5083 East Tule Drive  
Topock, AZ 86436  
Open House 5:00 – 6:30 pm  
Public Hearing 6:30 - 8:00 pm

## **LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS CAN BE REVIEWED**

A copy of the draft EIR, draft Statement of Basis, Proposed Plan, and other project documents are available for review at the project website (<http://www.dtsc-topock.com>) and the following locations:

Colorado River Indian Tribes Library  
Second Avenue and Mohave Road  
Parker, AZ 85344  
Contact: Elvira Bailey-Holgate, (928) 669-1285

Golden Shores/Topock Station Library  
13136 S. Golden Shores Parkway  
Topock, AZ 86436  
Contact: Kim Stoddard, (928) 768-2235

Lake Havasu City Library  
1770 McCulloch Boulevard  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403  
Contact: Audrey LaCommare, (928) 453-0718

Parker Library  
1001 Navajo Avenue  
Parker, AZ 85344  
Contact: Jeannie Smith, (928) 669-2622

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation  
Environmental Protection Office  
2000 Chemehuevi Trail  
Havasu Lake, CA 92363  
Contact: Gilbert Parra, (760) 858-1140

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Contact: Julie Johnson (714) 484-5337

Needles Library  
1111 Bailey Avenue  
Needles, CA 92363  
Contact: Kristin Mouton, (760) 326-9255

## **PROJECT CONTACTS**

Mr. Aaron Yue, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5439  
Email: ayue@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Christina Fu, Outreach Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5488  
Toll-free (866) 495-5651 (Press 4 twice)  
TTY/TDD/STS users dial 711  
(for the California Relay Service)  
Email: cfu@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Pamela Innis, Topock Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
OEPC- Denver Region  
P.O. Box 25007 (D-108)  
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 56  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007  
(303) 445-2502  
Email: pamela\_innis@ios.doi.gov

For Media Inquiries Contact:  
Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
(818) 717-6573  
Email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

*For disability-related accommodations or language/interpreter needs, please contact Christina Fu ten business days in advance (see contact information above).*