



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous wastes,
and restoring
contaminated sites
for all Californians*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

INFORMATIONAL NOTICE – February 2007

NOTICE OF UPCOMING GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will install monitoring wells beneath the Colorado River to collect groundwater samples and sediments as part of the ongoing environmental investigation activities near PG&E's Topock Compressor Station, located 12 miles southeast of Needles, California, along the Colorado River. The monitoring well installation is scheduled to begin February 14, 2007 and be complete by the end of March.

The wells will be installed using an "angled" drilling method. Drilling from land at an angle allows the investigation of areas deep below the Colorado River without conducting any work in the river itself. This drilling method eliminates activities and disturbances in the river and reduces the possibility of harmful impacts to the river from this investigation.

A drill rig will be set up on the California shoreline of the river, just south of the Interstate 40 bridge. From this point, the following environmental investigation activities will be conducted:

- Bore holes will be drilled at two different angles to more than 100 feet below the bottom of the river.
- Monitoring wells are planned to be installed inside the bore holes to sample groundwater from beneath the river.
- Samples of groundwater and sediments below the river will be collected for chemical analysis as the bore holes are being drilled.
- Once completed, the wells will allow for regular testing of groundwater.

During the well installation, you may notice an increase in activity and noise near the drilling site. We are working with PG&E to minimize any such disturbances. **Special care will be taken to protect wildlife, their habitats and cultural resources during all phases of this work.**



Typical Drill Rig



Topock Project Slant Drilling Location

Why this Work is Important

PG&E is investigating hexavalent chromium (CrVI) at the Topock site that exists as a result of historical operations at the Topock Compressor Station. CrVI is a form of chromium, a metal, found in nature and also used in industrial products and processes. CrVI is a known carcinogen when inhaled (i.e., through breathing). An extensive network of groundwater monitoring wells has been installed to identify which areas of groundwater are contaminated with CrVI.



The results of this new sampling project will help define the limits of the groundwater contamination, and will provide valuable information for the development and implementation of a final remedy for this site. **Ongoing sampling of Colorado River water, as part of the Topock remediation project, continues to show no detection of hexavalent chromium in the river itself.**

Where to Find More Information

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has created a Web site for you to learn more about the Topock project. The results of this new sampling will be posted to the project Web site when they are available. Please visit <http://www.dtsc-topock.com>.

Department Contacts:

Aaron Yue, DTSC Project Manager
714-484-5439 or email: ayue@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto, DTSC Public Participation
714-484-5338 or toll free: 866-495-5651
email: jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries contact:

Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer
818-551-2176 or email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

TDD: Call 1-888-877-5378
ask for Jeanne Matsumoto at 714-484-5338

Project documents can be found at the following information repositories:

Needles Public Library

1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363
Kristin Mouton: 760-326-9255

Colorado River Indian Tribes Public Library

2nd Avenue and Mojave Road
Parker, AZ 85344
Amelia Flores: 928-669-1285

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation

2000 Chemehuevi Trail
Havasu Lake, CA 92363
Dave Todd: 760-858-1140

Parker Public Library

1001 Navajo Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344
Jana Ponce: 928-669-2622

Golden Shores/Topock Library Station

13136 Golden Shores Parkway
Topock, AZ 86436
Avis McKinnon: 928-768-2235

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Julie Johnson: 714-484-5337

Lake Havasu City Library

1770 McCulloch Blvd.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Sharon Lane: 928-453-0718

