



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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**Notice of Availability of Partially Recirculated
Draft Environmental Impact Report:
PG&E TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION SOIL INVESTIGATION PROJECT
State Clearinghouse No. 2012111079
Public Comment Period: April 15, 2015 – June 1, 2015**

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) hereby announces the availability of a recirculated section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Topock Compressor Station Soil Investigation Project (Project) near Needles, California. As lead agency, DTSC is exercising its discretion to recirculate the Biological Resources section of the DEIR to afford trustee and responsible agencies, Tribes and the general public an opportunity to review and comment on the additional information added to the section since the original public review period. Modifications to the Biological Resources section resulted primarily from a bat habitat assessment conducted in January 2015 which identified potential suitable roosting habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat, named by the California Fish and Game Commission as a candidate for protection as an endangered species under the state's Endangered Species Act (2013), and evidence of pallid bat and other bats designated as species of special concern within the Project Site. In addition, the occurrence of Nelson's bighorn sheep, a Fully Protected species under the state's Endangered Species Act, was also documented on the Project Site (2015). The modified Biological Resources section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Project on bats and Nelson's bighorn sheep. As explained in the Recirculated Biological Resources section, after implementation of the EIR mitigation measures, all impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Topock Compressor Station is located in eastern San Bernardino County, about 12 miles southeast of the city of Needles, California, south of Interstate 40, and one-half mile west of the Colorado River (see **Figure A**). As previously explained in the DEIR, past activities at the Topock Compressor Station have resulted in the release of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) into soil and groundwater. Under certain exposure conditions, these COPCs are harmful to human health and the environment. The primary and fundamental objective of the Project is to gather sufficient soil samples to reliably characterize the nature and extent of soil and sediment contamination within the Project Site. The proposed Project includes soil sampling and analysis as described in the *Soil Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation Work Plan* (Soil Work Plan); potential bench scale tests, pilot studies, and geotechnical evaluations to support a future *Soil Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study*; and potential plant or other biota sampling activities to support ecological risk assessment (if needed). Bench scale tests and pilot studies may be implemented after soil sampling analysis is completed to evaluate potential soil remedy options if remedial action is necessary.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE PARTIALLY RECIRCULATED DEIR

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(c), since the new information is limited to biological resources, DTSC has elected to recirculate only the Biological Resources section of the DEIR. All revisions to the Biological Resources section are shown in ~~strikeout~~ (strikeout; for text deletions) and underline (underline; for text additions). In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(2), DTSC requests that reviewers limit the scope of their comments to those portions of the recirculated Biological Resources section shown in ~~strikeout~~ and underline. Comments submitted during the original DEIR review period will be responded to in the final environmental impact report (FEIR). A public meeting is not planned, nor required, during the recirculation period.

Received on: 4/15/15

Remove on: 6/2/15

LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS CAN BE REVIEWED

A copy of the recirculated section of the DEIR is available for review at the Project website (www.dtsc-topock.com) and the following locations:

Needles Branch Library 1111 Bailey Avenue Needles, CA 92363	Chemehuevi Indian Reservation Environmental Protection Office 2000 Chemehuevi Trail Havasu Lake, CA 92363	Golden Shores/Topock Station Library 13136 South Golden Shores Parkway Topock, AZ 86436
Colorado River Indian Tribes Library Second Avenue and Mohave Road Parker, AZ 85344	Lake Havasu City Library 1770 McCulloch Boulevard Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403	Parker Public Library 1001 Navajo Avenue Parker, AZ 85344
California Department of Toxic Substances Control 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630		

PROJECT CONTACTS

Comments may be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

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As part of the CEQA review process, the Partially Recirculated DEIR is subject to a 45-day review period. The Partially Recirculated DEIR public review period commences on April 15, 2015 and will end on June 1, 2015. All comments must be submitted to DTSC, postmarked or emailed, no later than June 1, 2015, for consideration in the FEIR.

