



State of California
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF INTENT

to Adopt an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Proposed Soil Management Plan

Date: December 3, 2015

Project Title: Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Soil Management Plan of the United Technologies Corporation Canoga Avenue Site

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), as Lead Agency for the project, has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the United Technologies Corporation Canoga Avenue Site Soil Management Plan (SMP), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 et seq. and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq.). An IS/MND is a detailed informational document that analyzes a proposed project's potentially significant environmental impacts, as well as identifying ways to minimize and mitigate such effects. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments regarding the content of the IS/MND.

Project Applicant: United Technologies Corporation (UTC)

Project Location: The UTC Canoga Avenue Site (Site), also known as the former Rocketdyne plant, is located at 6633 Canoga Avenue, in the Canoga Park Community of the City of Los Angeles, California. The approximately 47-acre Site is located on a large "superblock", which is bounded by Canoga Avenue to the east, Vanowen Street to the north, Owensmouth Avenue to the west, and Victory Boulevard to the south. The remainder of the superblock, approximately five acres at the southwest corner, is occupied by an existing retail use that is not part of the Site. The Site most recently served as the aerospace production plant of Pratt & Whitney-Rocketdyne, producing rocket engines and propulsion systems for the U.S. space program. The Site is currently idle, with vacant industrial buildings and structures in various states of disrepair, surrounded by surface parking lots along Canoga Avenue and Victory Boulevard.

Project Description: Now that the Site has been idled and there are no plans for returning it to operation, UTC is voluntarily proposing implementation of a Soil Management Plan (SMP) as a continuation of ongoing cleanup efforts. The Draft SMP, including a Human Health Risk Assessment, provides processes and procedures for monitoring, assessing, and remediating impacted soil from the ground surface to the water table, (generally 15 to 18 feet below ground surface) associated with the Site's past activities. Regional Board approval of the proposed Site-wide SMP would eliminate the need to review and approve multiple soil remediation work plans. It also would allow the rapid identification, assessment and remediation of impacts as the on-Site structures are demolished to access and remediate the underlying impacted soil.

Impacted material will be disposed of or recycled at appropriate off-Site receiver locations. Implementation of the SMP could commence in early 2016 and would be completed in

approximately six months. It has been determined that implementation of the SMP would not result in any significant and unavoidable environmental impacts.

Document Availability: The Draft IS/MND is available for review at the Regional Board Website http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL204281528 and at the following locations during normal business hours:

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013 (213) 576-6600
- Woodland Hills Branch Library – Los Angeles Public Libraries
22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, California 91364 (818) 226-0017

The 36-day public comment period **begins December 3, 2015 and ends January 8, 2016**. Please send written comments by 5:00 PM on January 8, 2016 to: Ana Townsend, Regional Water Quality Control Board Project Manager, 320 West 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013 or electronically at ana.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov. For community outreach, contact Susana Lagudis, Regional Water Quality Control Board Public Participation Specialist at (213) 576-6694 or electronically at susana.lagudis@waterboards.ca.gov.





State of California
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**FACT SHEET &
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**
Proposed Soil Management Plan and
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration of the
United Technologies Corporation Canoga Avenue Site
(Formerly Pratt & Whitney-Rocketdyne Site)
Canoga Park, California

December 2015

Si necesita información en español, por favor llame a Susana Lagudis, Participación Pública de la Junta Regional: 213-576-6694

As explained in the Fact Sheet dated December 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") is overseeing the investigation and cleanup activities at the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) Canoga Avenue facility located at 6633 Canoga Avenue in the Canoga Park community of the City of Los Angeles (Site).

UTC has submitted a document called the *Soil Management Plan* (SMP) to the Regional Board for review and approval. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Regional Board has evaluated the potential short-term and long-term environmental impacts that would reasonably be expected to occur as a result of implementation of the SMP.

The Regional Board determined that although the proposed SMP could have potentially significant effects on the environment, mitigation measures have been identified by or agreed to by UTC to address these effects. The Regional Board prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) which identifies the mitigation measures.

The Regional Board is providing an opportunity for concurrent public review and comment on the SMP and the IS/MND. Comments must be submitted in writing by January 8, 2016 as explained below.



Site Location

Site History and Investigation

The Site was developed in the mid-1950s for the manufacture of rocket engines and related systems. The approximately 47-acre Site is located on a large "superblock", which is bounded by Canoga Avenue to the east, Vanowen Street to the north, Owensmouth Avenue to the west, and Victory Boulevard to the south. The Site most recently served as the aerospace production plant of Pratt & Whitney-Rocketdyne, producing rocket engines and propulsion systems for the U.S. space program. Operations at the Site concluded in April 2014. The currently idle Site contains numerous vacant industrial buildings and structures in various states of disrepair, surrounded by surface parking lots along Canoga Avenue and Victory Boulevard.

Numerous environmental investigations and cleanup activities have been conducted across the Site since 1984 that have identified elevated levels of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), including chlorinated solvents from historic manufacturing activities at the Site.

Soil Management Plan

UTC is voluntarily proposing implementation of the SMP as a continuation of ongoing Site cleanup efforts. As part of the proposed SMP, a human health risk assessment (HHRA) was prepared to determine the appropriate soil cleanup objectives for COPCs at the Site. These objectives would be protective both to human health and surface water and groundwater resources.

Much of the areas of known and potentially impacted soil are present underneath the buildings on the Site. In order to access and remediate impacted soil underlying the Site, implementation of the SMP would require that buildings and structures at the Site be demolished. Areas with limited access during previous investigations would be assessed, and any potential new impacts discovered during foundation and pavement removal would be characterized. Impacted material will be removed and disposed/recycled at appropriate off-Site receiver locations.

Proposed SMP Activities

Implementation of the SMP could commence in early 2016 and would be completed in approximately six months. As proposed by UTC, implementation of the SMP would involve the following steps:

- Demolition of specific buildings and structures and/or removal of asphalt or other hardscape, and clean overburden soil, as needed, to access impacted soil that exceed site specific soil remediation goals (SRGs);
- Excavation of impacted soil, stockpiling or direct loading of soil, and waste profiling;
- Evaluation of additional suspected impacts, if any, discovered during field monitoring of demolition and removal activities, excavated and profiled as warranted;
- Segregation of demolition waste, and disposal/recycling at appropriate off-Site receiver site(s);
- Collection and testing of additional samples throughout the paved parking areas; and
- Grading and/or back-filling of excavated areas as needed.

To minimize emissions of airborne pollutants during implementation of the SMP, UTC proposes protective measures including use of water and/or foam on exposed soil and limiting the number of daily truck trips.

Draft IS/MND

In accordance with CEQA, the Regional Board, evaluated the soil remediation and associated activities proposed in the SMP. Impacts under all environmental topics studied were determined to be less than significant, *except* for the impact to Cultural Resources. The former Rocketdyne plant is considered an eligible historical resource due to its association with space exploration and engineering.

Demolition of existing Site structures is required in order to remediate impacted soil and concrete beneath them. The Draft IS/MND identifies mitigation measures that will reduce potential impacts to Cultural Resources to less than significant levels. These measures include recording and documenting the former Rocketdyne

plant (Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record) which would be submitted to the Library of Congress, and a substantive interpretive and commemorative program.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The Regional Board is providing this Notice of Opportunity to Comment on the proposed SMP and has published a Notice of Intent to Adopt a IS/MND for the proposed Project. The public comment review periods for both the IS/MND and SMP will run concurrently.

The Regional Board will make a final decision to approve the SMP after the public and interested parties have had a chance to review and comment. Your participation is encouraged. The 36-day public comment period begins December 3, 2015 and ends January 8, 2016. Public comments must be received or emailed by January 8, 2016 and sent to:

Ana Townsend, Project Manager

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite #200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Email: ana.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov

Information Repositories and Contacts

The administrative file for the proposed SMP and the related Draft IS/MND are available at the Regional Board's office:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street, Suite #200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

By appointment, please call (213) 576-6636 or email at RB4-PublicRecords@waterboards.ca.gov

The Draft SMP, related documents prepared as part of the environmental investigation, and the Draft IS/MND can also be viewed and retrieved at the Water Board's GeoTracker website here (click on the tab labeled "Site Maps / Documents" :

http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL204281528

If you have questions about the Site or the Project, please contact:

Ana Townsend, Project Manager

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
(213) 576-6738 or
ana.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov

Susana Lagudis, Public Participation Specialist

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Public Participation
(213) 576-6694 or
susana.lagudis@waterboards.ca.gov