



Department of Toxic Substances Control



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Gray Davis
Governor

September 22, 2003

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Northern California Permitting and
Corrective Action Branch
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Project Title: Interim Measures for Remediation and Removal of Perchlorate at Happy Valley.

Project Location-Specific: Boeing North America Inc., Rockaldyne Propulsion and Power, Woolsey Canyon Road, Simi Hills California

City: Unincorporated

County: Ventura

Project Description: The proposed project is an interim measure to remove and treat soil and sediment contaminated with perchlorate. Perchlorate has been found in surface water on site and there is concern that surface water contaminated with perchlorate may flow offsite. The interim measures consist of the following:

1. In place treatment of perchlorate soils in the Building 359 Area by biotreatment. Biotreatment increases the capacity of existing soil microorganisms to breakdown perchlorate under anaerobic conditions using small volumes compost and other nutrients. The treatment areas will be carefully monitored for excess moisture to ensure that surface water contaminated with perchlorate will not migrate from the treatment area boundaries.
2. Removal and in-place treatment of soil and sediment from the Happy Valley drainage. The soil and sediment will be removed by an extended reach track hoe and by hand. The material will be transported on site to the Building 359 Area for treatment with Building 359 soils. Building 359 is outside the drainage channel. Remaining soil and sediment contaminated with perchlorate will be treated in-place by composting.
3. Backfill excavated areas with native materials. The backfilled soil will be placed in the excavations in six inch lifts and compacted to the existing density. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native grasses and flowers.
4. Sampling and analysis of the treatment area will be conducted to ensure that soil conditions are optimal for perchlorate degradation and that levels of perchlorate are being reduced.
5. Approximately 500 cubic yards of soils contaminated with perchlorate also contains elevated levels of metals and will excavated and transported offsite for land disposal.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

The field activities involving soil and sediment removal and backfilling will take approximately six weeks to complete and be completed before heavy winter rains. Biotreatment will take approximately six months to complete. Lab tests have shown that perchlorate contaminated soil from the Happy Valley area can be treated to nondetectable levels using biotreatment. The removal of soil and sediment must be completed before winter rains begin and bring the risk of off-site migration of perchlorate in surface water.

Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment will be excavated from the Happy Valley Drainage for on-site treatment. A total area of approximately one acre of area in 4 locations will undergo biotreatment. The average concentration of perchlorate in soils undergoing biotreatment will be approximately 400 milligrams per kilogram. If treatment of perchlorate contaminated soils and sediment is not successful, addition measures may need to be proposed under a separate environmental analysis.

During the wet season, surface water will be diverted away from areas where treatment is occurring with the use of sand bags, hay bales, or tarps. In addition, piping may be installed to divert and redirect surface water runoff to areas in the drainage that is below treatment areas. During heavy rainfall events, treatment areas will be covered by plastic sheeting to minimize infiltration.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Northern California Permitting and Corrective Action Branch

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Boeing North America Inc., Rocketdyne Propulsion and Power

Exempt Status: Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061(b) (3)
With certainty, no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The facility routinely tests rocket motors. Happy Valley is approximately 2,700 feet from the nearest residential area (to the east). The noise levels from the excavation and hauling equipment will be orders of magnitude quieter than rocket motor testing. Operation of equipment will be limited to Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5pm. Truck noise levels will be monitored and those that exceed noise standards will be taken off the project.
2. The California Department of Fish and Game has been consulted regarding this project) and agrees that the proposed measures have been designed to avoid significant impacts to the two sensitive plant species present (Tar Plant and Mariposa Lily). In addition the project will be required to comply with conditions in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Nationwide Permit, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 Certification permit and Waste Discharge Requirements, the California Department of Fish and Game 1603 Streambed Alteration permit.
3. The project will comply with Ventura County Air Pollution Control District rules. Dust will be suppressed by wetting soil with water during excavation and during loading of soil into bins. The excavated soil and sediment remaining on-site at the end of the work day will be covered with plastic to prevent dust. Monitoring with field instruments will be performed for dust.
4. The project may only temporarily divert water around treatment areas and then direct it back into the same drainage channel. The effected area is seasonal winter drainage.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raymond Leclerc

Telephone: (916) 255-3582

Signature: James M Pappas
James M Pappas, P.E.
Chief, Northern California Permitting
and Corrective Action Branch

Date: 9/22/03