



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet #4, March 2009

Aerojet, Chino Hills, OB/OD Closure Determination, Cleanup Activities Update, Public Comment Period & Open House



The screening plant in the OB/OD area screened 260,000 cubic yards of soil.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing ongoing cleanup activities of hazardous substances at the former Aerojet Facility (facility) located at the end of Woodview Road in Chino Hills. This facility was used for the assembly and testing of ordnance for the United States Department of Defense from 1954 to 1995. This fact sheet provides you with information on DTSC's intent to certify closure of the permitted Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Unit and also provides an update of site investigation and cleanup activities at the facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPENS FOR DTSC APPROVAL OF OB/OD UNIT CLOSURE DETERMINATION

March 11, to April 10, 2009

OPEN HOUSE INVITATION
March 26, 2009, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
McCoy Equestrian Center
14280 Peyton Drive, Chino Hills

DTSC invites you to attend our Open House to discuss your questions and concerns regarding the Aerojet facility. See page 4 for more details.



Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Unit & Closure Determination

Ordnance items that did not meet quality standards for military use were destroyed on-site in the OB/OD Unit. This treatment, allowed by state and federal permits, included incineration (burning) and detonation (exploding).

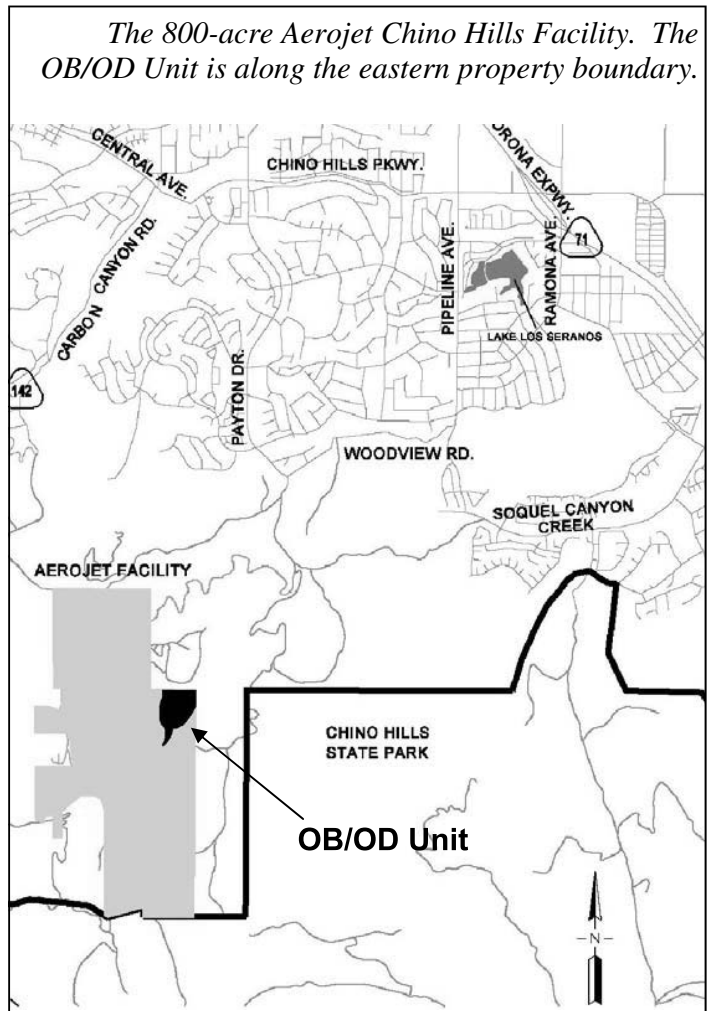
In 1993, DTSC approved Aerojet's closure plan for cleanup of the OB/OD Unit (see map at right), and in 1994, Aerojet implemented the closure plan. Initial work included excavation and screening of soils containing ordnance, and included ordnance sweeps of the area surrounding the OB/OD unit. Subsequently, after the initial work, DTSC and Aerojet agreed more work was needed and ordnance re-screening activities were performed. The re-screening work began in 2003, was temporarily halted during rainy seasons, and was physically completed in 2006. As part of the re-screening effort, the contractor completed ordnance sweeps of the bedrock underlying the soil excavated for re-screening. Additionally, a third-party quality assurance (QA) survey of the excavation bottom and support areas was performed. In areas where ordnance was found during a QA survey, corrective actions were implemented by the contractor that included re-excavation of soil in areas around each ordnance item, followed by additional ordnance sweeps. The area was then subjected to a new QA survey. Over 260,000 cubic yards of soil were re-excavated and re-screened with over 47,000 items and 120,000 pounds of inert fragments recovered.

In March 2007, Aerojet submitted the Final Ordnance Removal Report and the Report on Completion of Third Party Quality Assurance Confirmation Survey to DTSC. In December 2008, DTSC approved both reports. Prior to issuing closure certification for the OB/OD Unit, DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period and host an Open House to receive public comments and assist the public with questions and concerns.

Facility Description & Location

The Aerojet facility is located at the end of Woodview Road (formerly Soquel Canyon Road) in Chino Hills. During operation, the site occupied

about 800 acres of which Aerojet owned 400 acres (Aerojet currently owns 580 acres) and leased the remainder. The leased land served primarily as a buffer zone from facility operations. Land adjoining the property is used for cattle grazing. Aerojet facility operations included loading, assembly and packing of munitions and limited research and development of explosives, propellants and proprietary organic chemicals. The facility operated from 1954 through 1995 when Aerojet ceased operations.



Contamination Cleanup & Clearance Activities

In 1994, DTSC and Aerojet entered into a Consent Agreement to initiate an environmental investigation to determine the nature and extent of contaminants present and to define cleanup options (also known as Corrective Action), performed under the regulatory oversight of DTSC. Contaminants found include military ordnance (both exploded and unexploded projectiles), explosive compounds, and perchlorate in soil, surface water and subsurface water. In 1999, the environmental investigation was completed.

A total of 29 individual Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) and Areas of Concern (AOCs) were defined. Over 1,800 soil and water samples were collected and analyzed to determine the nature and extent of chemical contamination. Results showed there were no harmful levels of chemicals in surface waters, nor were any chemicals detected outside of or migrating from facility boundaries that posed a risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, 19 of the 29 SWMU/AOCs were assigned “no further action” by DTSC. The remaining 10 SWMU/AOCs required cleanup actions, primarily to address soil and subsurface water contamination and removal of ordnance items. Cleanup options were developed, presented to the community and a cleanup remedy was selected and approved in November 2000. The cleanup actions for chemicals in these 10 areas are complete and no additional assessment work is required. In September 2008, DTSC approved the Corrective Measures implemented by Aerojet for chemicals. Ordnance-related investigation and removal activities are currently being completed under Corrective Action.

Depleted Uranium (DU)

DU cleanup activities were conducted under the regulatory oversight of the California State Department of Health Services (now called the CA Department of Public Health), Radiologic Health Branch (DPH). Cleanup standards were based on established California radiologic human health risk levels. In July 2003, the final report on achieved cleanup levels was submitted for DPH review. Additionally, the Aerojet site underwent a health risk assessment that evaluated chemical toxicity of uranium remaining in site soils. The assessment determined levels of uranium in site soils are well within allowable levels for human health and safety. In September 2004, DTSC concluded its review and found that levels of uranium at the site in soil, surface water and subsurface water are within acceptable human health based levels. In October 2007 and January 2008, DPH conducted an independent confirmatory survey for DU at the Aerojet facility. DPH’s decision on termination of the radioactive materials license is pending.

Health & Safety

It is important that until completion of all on-going cleanup activities, the public obey the *unauthorized personnel keep out* signs surrounding the Aerojet property. If a suspected ordnance item is found in the vicinity, it is important that you do not touch it or attempt to remove it. Rather, immediately contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department at (909) 465-6638. Take note of your surroundings and mark the location with an object such as a stick, rock or piece of clothing so it can be easily found by public safety authorities.

In 1999, in response to community concerns, the California Cancer Registry conducted three cancer assessments for Chino Hills. The assessments did not find any excess cancer occurrence in Chino Hills. Findings from the cancer assessments can be found in the Information Repository (see page 4 for locations).

Community Education Plan (CEP)

As a condition of approval for Corrective Measures, Aerojet is developing a Community Education Plan (CEP) to inform and assist the community with public safety matters in connection with Aerojet’s former ordnance activities. The CEP will identify various public agency (including environmental, health and fire) and private entity partnerships to assess potential impacts to the Chino Hills community relative to the Aerojet facility. The CEP will also identify community interests, concerns and stakeholders that together will maintain an open channel and process for community input and education on ordnance and public safety. CEP components may include community education through public meetings, regular mailings, presentations to local agencies and schools, organizations, and other public groups.

Next Steps & Future Plans for Aerojet Facility

Aerojet has just completed field activities designed to fill in data gaps outside the OB/OD Unit (but within the Aerojet study area) in order to locate and remove remaining ordnance items. The results of these activities will be reported to DTSC in late spring or early summer 2009. Based on the

results, Aerojet will complete a feasibility study that will evaluate potential future land uses and the cleanup efforts associated with a change in current land use, if any. Site cleanup is the first step in returning the land to a beneficial use. DTSC's main objective for cleanup is protection of human health, the environment and public safety. Before the current land use can change, DTSC will assess whether the cleanup is successful and the property is safe to be used for its intended purposes.

In the near future, after DTSC completes its review of *all* reports documenting the cleanup and determines that no future cleanup activities are necessary, DTSC will plan to terminate the Corrective Action process. You will be provided advance notification of this future opportunity to provide comment on termination of the Corrective Action process.

How You Can Participate Now

DTSC wants to know what you think about the OB/OD Unit Closure Determination. The Final Ordinance Removal Report and the Report on Completion of Third Party Quality Assurance Confirmation Surveys document the closure of Aerojet's OB/OD Unit area and is available for public comment. The 30-day public comment period begins **March 11, and ends April 10, 2009**, during which time you can provide your comments. You may use the enclosed form to send in questions or comments during the public comment period. Public comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Robert Romero, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4700
E-mail: rromero1@dtsc.ca.gov

You are also invited to attend our **Open House** on the OB/OD Unit Closure Determination where you can discuss your questions and concerns directly with project staff. This is a significant milestone towards the completion of cleanup activities at the Aerojet facility. **The Open House is being held Thursday, March 26, 2009, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, at the McCoy Equestrian Center, 14280 Peyton Drive, Chino Hills. Your participation is encouraged.

Where to Find Site Documents

Project documents, including the OB/OD Unit Closure Determination Reports, are available for public review at:

James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library
14020 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 590-5380
Mon – Thurs: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Fri: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sun: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4700
Contact: Ms. Julie Johnson for an appointment
(714) 484-5337

Who to Contact For Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Robert Romero, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4700
E-mail: rromero1@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5316

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4700
E-mail: sllear@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5354

For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573

Notice to Hearing-Impaired

TDD users can use the toll-free California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free (866) 495-5651.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

**NOTICE OF OPEN BURN/OPEN DETONATION (OB/OD) UNIT CLOSURE DETERMINATION
AND 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
AEROJET, CHINO HILLS FACILITY**

You may use this form to send in your written public comments on the Final Ordnance Removal Report and Report on Completion of Third Party Quality Assurance Confirmation Surveys for the Aerojet facility. You may also use this form to ask to be added or deleted from the Aerojet facility mailing list. If you know of any persons or organization that would like to be on the mailing list, use this form to notify us. Please address all mailings to Robert Romero, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4700. **Reminder:** The 30-day public comment period begins **March 11, and ends April 10, 2009**, during which time you can provide your public comments. **All public comments on the Final Ordnance Removal Report and Report on Completion of Third Party Quality Assurance Confirmation Surveys must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 10, 2009:**

Name: _____

Agency or Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please add me to the Aerojet, Chino Hills facility mailing list.

Please delete me from the Aerojet, Chino Hills facility mailing list.

Comments: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

