REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION IX

EPA ID: CAD009688052 **Site Name:** HALACO ENGINEERING CO **State ID:** 56330002

Alias Site Names:

City: OXNARD **County or Parish:** VENTURA **State:** CA

Refer to Report Dated: **Report Type:** INT. RMVL ASSESS AND EXPANDED SITE INSPECTION 001

Report Developed by: Roy F. Weston

DECISION:

- ☐ **1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:**
  - ☐ **1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA (No Further Remedial Action Planned - NFRAP)**
  - ☐ **1b. Site may qualify for action, but is deferred to:**
- ☒ **2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:**
  - **2a. Priority:** ☐ **Higher** ☐ **Lower**
  - **2b. Other: (recommended action)** Recommended for HRS Scoring

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX completed the Integrated Assessment of the Halaco Engineering Company, Inc., facility (the Site) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA) in January 2007. Field activities took place during June 2006. The purpose of the Integrated Assessment was twofold: (1) provide data for the evaluation of the Site under the Hazard Ranking System (HRS); and (2) evaluate the need for short-term response actions to stabilize the Site. Based on the findings of the Integrated Assessment the Site qualifies for listing on the National Priorities List and data indicates that further response is warranted.

The Halaco facility, located at 6200 Perkins Road, Oxnard, California, abuts the Ormond Beach wetlands and is in close proximity to the Ormond Beach Lagoon, Ormond Beach, and the Pacific Ocean. The Ormond Beach wetlands are one of the few large-scale wetlands that remain along California's southern coast. These coastal wetlands are home to several endangered or threatened species, including the western snowy plover and the California least tern.

The Site is an abandoned metal recycling facility bisected by the Oxnard Industrial Drain (OID). Halaco Engineering Company operated in Oxnard from 1965 until 2004. Scrap metal, including radioactive material, was processed at the smelter portion of the facility located on the west side of the OID. Halaco process wastes were disposed of in the OID, on the waste disposal parcel located on the east side of the OID, and later on the smelter parcel.

EPA found contamination sources on the smelter property and the waste disposal parcel. These sources include waste stored within process buildings, a surface impoundment, and a large waste pile. The smelter parcel has an estimated 5,000 cubic yards of process waste. A surface impoundment and waste disposal pile are located on the waste disposal parcel, which together likely contain over 500,000 cubic yards of waste. Contamination found on-site includes a combination of several metals and radionuclides, including aluminum, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, magnesium, manganese, nickel, silver, zinc, cesium-137, potassium-40, thorium-228, thorium-230, and thorium-232. Most of these contaminants are found at levels significantly above background. Contaminated soils and sediments containing one or more of the same metals and radionuclides have also been found on adjacent properties, including wetlands and a public beach.

Although a portion of the facility is fenced, there are numerous signs of trespass and vandalism, such as extensive graffiti and off-road vehicle and bicycle tracks. Additionally, this investigation indicates that nearby populations and receptors could be impacted by contamination from the Site.

It is recommended that the site be proposed for listing on the NPL based on the findings of the Integrated Assessment along with the findings from past investigations of the site conducted by local, state, and federal authorities.

MATT Mitguard

Site Decision Made by:

Signature: _____ **Date:** 01/10/2007

EPA Form # 9100-3