United States Environmental Protection Agency

Waste Removal on Fruitland Site Complete this Week

December 22, 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Cal Recycle have completed their work in removing hazardous and non-hazardous solid wastes at the Fruitland Site (Site). Final work to remove small amounts of hazardous wastes discovered in the unburned business inventory will be conducted by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by the end of this week.

Current Site photo taken from the North-East corner

Unburned Business Inventory

While EPA and Cal Recycle have been working on identifying and removing material from the site; a contractor, on behalf of the business owner, has been clearing through any unburned business inventory left at the Site. Using the same safety measures put into place by EPA, any hazardous materials found within the unburned business inventory will be identified and removed by DTSC.

Sampling Results and Actions

Most of the initial sampling conducted by EPA has shown levels below concern. However, EPA found areas of concrete stained with PCBs at the Site. This past week, EPA has worked to apply an epoxy coating to these areas that will seal and prevent direct exposure or migration of PCBs.

What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of man-made organic chemicals banned from use for their toxicity in 1979. While many steps have been taken to carefully remove PCBs from historic uses – such as in electrical equipment, in transformers, or capacitors – there still remains PCBs in the environment.

Example of area where epoxy coating has been applied

Final Steps

EPA is waiting for the results of another round of additional confirmation sampling. These results will determine if EPA's cleanup of the Site is complete.

Site History

On June 14, 2016, a fire started in Maywood, Calif. The fire burned Panda International Trading, located at 3570 Fruitland Avenue. Fruitland Avenue is a commercial/light manufacturing district. A residential neighborhood directly borders the south end of the site. The facility includes businesses, Panda International Trading (PIT) and Sokor Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard that sends scrap metal for reuse, and Sokor Metals is also a metals recycling operation.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

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Additional information can be found at: **www.epa.gov/ca/response-fruitland-avenue-magnesium-fire**