

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Corrected Version

DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE RETROFIT OF ARGONAUT MINE DAM



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the draft Remedial Action Plan (draft RAP) for the retrofit of the Argonaut Mine Concrete Dam (Dam). The Dam is located at the corner of Sutter Street and Argonaut Drive in Jackson, California.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have concluded the Dam is not stable and poses a threat of failure and uncontrolled release of arsenic contaminated mine tailings.

DTSC is involved with preventing the Dam collapsing and preventing spillage of the contaminated mine tailings into the community.

Public Comment Period



**October 20, 2017 -
November 21, 2017.**

DTSC will accept public comments on the draft RAP for the Site from **October 20, 2017 - November 21, 2017**. All comments must be received by **November 21, 2017**. Please send all comments to:

Tami Trearse, PG
Project Manager
8800 California Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Tami.Trearse@dtsc.ca.gov

A public meeting will be held on:

November 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Jackson City Council
Meeting Room
33 Broadway
Jackson, California 95642

USEPA will give an overall update of the site.

SITE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Dam is located at the corner of Sutter Street and Argonaut Drive in Jackson, California. **The Dam was built in 1916 to prevent mine tailings from going into Jackson Creek.**

In November 2015, DTSC constructed a temporary storm water diversion system to divert water around the dam until a permanent fix for the dam could be designed and built. The temporary diversion system has been working as designed through the wet rainy season and will continue to operate until the proposed retrofit is constructed.

DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION

WORKPLAN (RAP)

The draft RAP evaluated four different designs alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative that prevents the potential risks to public health and the environment. **All design alternatives are evaluated based on their effectiveness, cost and implementability.** Before DTSC approves the draft RAP, it is made available to the public for comments during the public comment period. All comments received during this comment period will be recorded, reviewed, considered, and responded to in writing before DTSC approves the draft RAP.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

The draft RAP evaluated four different retrofit alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative that prevents the potential risks to public health and the environment.

Alternative 1: Reinforced Concrete Buttress Wall with Gravity Arches: This alternative would construct another concrete dam in front of the existing dam. This alternative would retain the basic structure of the dam.

Alternative 2: Mass Concrete Gravity Dam: This alternative would construct a concrete dam that fills in the arches and when completed the dam would be flat in front.

Alternative 3: Roller-Compacted Concrete Gravity Dam: This alternative would require equipment and

concrete to be compacted in the arches of the dam. This alternative would be very difficult due to the low angles of the arches.

Alternative 4: Earthen Embankment with Foaming (Cellular) Concrete with a spillway to drain surface water. This alternative would allow the concrete to be sprayed into the arches to support the dam and then an earthen berm to be placed against the concrete to help support the dam structure.

PROPOSED SELECTION

DTSC has selected Alternative 4 as the proposed alternative. This design is a relatively simple design with low impact to the existing dam and incorporating a spillway system direct surface water from above to below the dam. This design is overall protective of human health and the environment.

SAFETY MEASURES

The following measures will be taken to protect the public during cleanup:

- All work areas will be fenced and access will be controlled and limited;
- Trucks will be tarped before entering any public roads;
- Truck tires will be sprayed off with water before leaving the site;
- Dust will be controlled by applying water and ceasing work if winds exceed 15 miles per hour;
- Work hours will be from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM;
- Air monitoring will be conducted to ensure that dust levels are not excessive.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CEQA is a statute that requires State and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if possible. DTSC prepared an Initial Study. This document evaluated that there are some environmental impacts that will result from this project. DTSC is proposing a Mitigated Negative Declaration.



NEXT STEPS

After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document. This includes DTSC response to all comments received by the department during the public comment period.

Anyone who submits comments regarding the draft RAP will receive a copy of the Response to Comments document. A copy of the Response to Comments document will also be placed in the information repositories listed below:

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

All site related documents are available at:

Jackson Main Library

530 Sutter Street

Jackson, California 95642

(209) 223-6400; Call for hours

DTSC Sacramento Regional Office File Room

8800 California Center Drive

Sacramento, California 95826

(916) 255-4159; Call for an appointment

You can also find information on DTSC's EnviroStor website. Go to www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public. Select "Site/Facility Search", enter "100347" in the "Site Code" field and click "Get Report".

DTSC CONTACT INFORMATION

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