



SULPHUR BANK MERCURY MINE SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • JANUARY 2008

SULPHUR BANK MINE ROAD REMOVAL ACTION

The EPA is conducting a removal of contaminated soil from around homes and in the roadways along Sulphur Bank Mine Road and Ward road. The removal action will take place from January to March 2008. EPA is working closely with residents directly impacted by the removal action. This flyer provides general information about the removal and the work that will be going on during this period.

EPA's field sampling investigation shows the presence of contaminated mine wastes on several residential properties and in the roadways in this area. These mine wastes contain high levels of mercury and arsenic that pose threats to human health through direct contact with the contaminated soils. EPA will excavate approximately 2500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and move it safely to a secure area on the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine property.

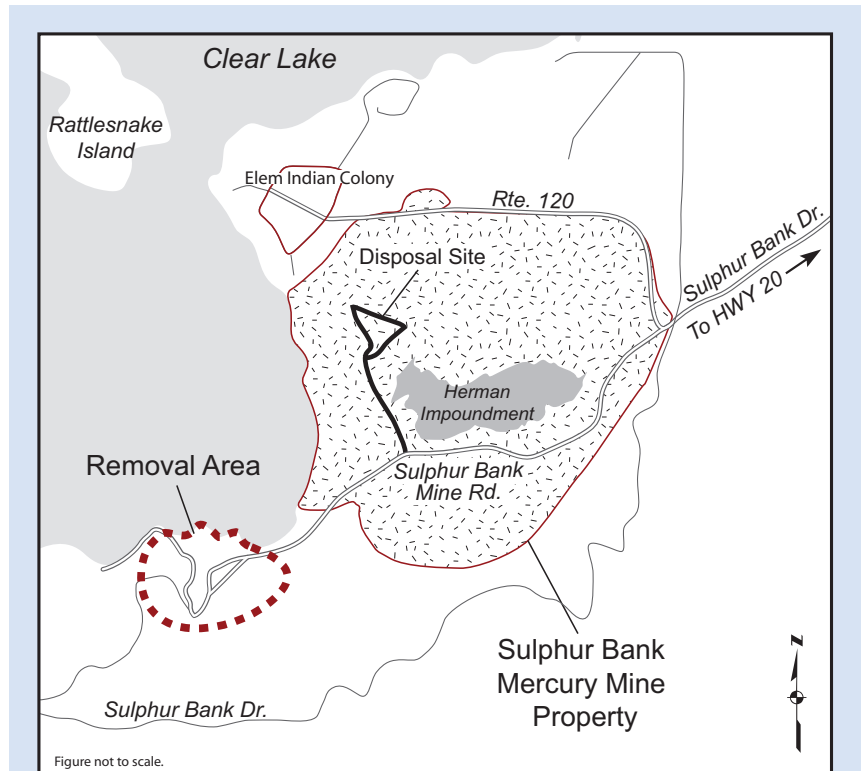
TRAFFIC AND ROADS

Will contaminated material removed from the site be transferred on public roadways?

Haul trucks will not transport any contaminated material on public roadways. All excavated contaminated material will be transported directly from the cleanup areas to the adjacent Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine site for disposal in a secure area.

What public roads will be affected by the removal action?

Haul trucks will use public roadways to bring in clean construction materials (gravel and base rock) from nearby commercial sources. The public roads that will be used during



The removal area is along Sulphur Bank Mine Road and Ward Road located to the south and southeast of the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund Site and approximately one mile south of Clearlake Oaks.

EPA's construction activities include Sulphur Bank Drive, Sulphur Bank Mine Road and short distances of Highway 20 east of Clearlake Oaks.

What size are the haul trucks and how often will they be on the roads?

The removal action will rely on two haul trucks with the capacity of 6-10 cubic yards or about 12 tons. Haulage of clean construction materials on public roadways will take place between 7:30am to 3:30pm. Flashing road signs will be placed on Highway 20 during these periods to increase motorist awareness that additional vehicle traffic may be encountered in the area.

Who will maintain the road during the project and ensure that repairs are made?

An evaluation of the initial condition of the roadway was conducted and following completion of this removal action, EPA will re-evaluate the condition of the roadway and restore it if necessary.

Noise and Dust

Will the trucks have covered loads?

As the trucks are transporting clean material and will be moving slowly, it is not necessary to cover them. EPA will comply with all requirements for transporting construction materials on public roadways.

How much noise should I expect?

Residents in the area should expect some construction noise associated with the operation of heavy equipment. In EPA's previous cleanup activities, the primary reason for resident concern regarding noise was due to truck traffic, particularly trucks using their air brakes on Highway 20 as they turned onto Sulphur Bank Drive. The Sulphur Bank Mine Road removal action will involve much less truck traffic overall, and EPA will require our contractor to prohibit their truck drivers from using air brakes on Highway 20 at Sulphur Bank Drive.

How is the dust from the removal action being controlled?

In areas where contaminated soils are being excavated and removed, EPA will require the contractor to control dust by wetting down the contaminated soils during excavation, and during placement in the disposal area. We expect that dust containing hazardous contaminants will be controlled

in the work area and that dust will not be released from the site to any adjacent areas. EPA will also require that our contractor set up and operate a monitoring network in the vicinity of the work area to gather air data. The data will be used to make sure that dust is not leaving the work area.

Health

What are health concerns with mercury and arsenic?

Humans can be exposed to mercury and arsenic through direct contact with contaminated soils. Mercury can be absorbed by the human body and then may interfere with the development of the central nervous system and cause damage to the brain, kidneys and developing babies. Mercury is a special concern to women of childbearing age and to children ages 1 to 17. Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment and as a by-product of some agricultural and industrial activities. Long-term exposure to arsenic has been linked to cancer of the bladder, lungs, skin, kidneys, nasal passages, liver and prostate.

Do I have to worry about breathing dust containing hazardous contaminants?

No. EPA will not haul any contaminated soils on public roadways. Soils containing hazardous contaminants will be excavated in the work area using appropriate health and safety controls to assure that neither the workers nor the nearby residents are exposed to dust containing hazardous levels of contaminants. The contaminated soils will be hauled directly to the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine property for disposal.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

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