



SCHOOL INVESTIGATIONS

STREAMLINED

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Department of Toxic Substances Control



Role of Department of Toxic Substances Control at Schools

- Under Education Code, DTSC identifies environmental contaminants prior to school construction or expansion financed by state bonds
- DTSC oversees environmental assessments and response actions at prospective, expanding, and existing school sites
- DTSC evaluates environmental health risks, protects children and adults from exposure to hazardous materials

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DTSC's Role at School Sites

- Oversee assessments and cleanups in accordance with state and federal statutes, regulations, and guidelines.
 - Mandatory oversight for proposed or expanding schools
 - Voluntary oversight for existing schools
- Identify presence of hazardous materials.
 - Multimedia (air, soils, water)
 - Within school property boundaries

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Schools Division Mission

To assist school districts in the assessment of school properties by ensuring that environmental conditions are expeditiously investigated, evaluated, and, if necessary, remediated in order to protect public health and the environment.

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Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I)

A preliminary assessment of a property to determine whether there has been or may have been a release of a hazardous material, or whether a naturally occurring hazardous material is present, based on reasonably available information about the property and the area in its vicinity.

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Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I)

- REA II Qualification is required
- ASTM Guidance is followed
- Supplemental Phase I Guidance for Schools
- A review of records, government agency files, aerial photos, etc.
- Minimal sampling is conducted
- Naturally-occurring hazardous substances included
 - Methane & hydrogen sulfide
 - Naturally-occurring asbestos

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New Regulations for Phase Is

- Effective February 10, 2003
- Allows for limited sampling data in Phase I or Phase I Addendum, restricted to:
 - PCBs from transformers
 - Lead from lead-based paint
- Uses Screening levels for Lead (255 ppm) and PCBs (0.22 ppm) in soil
- Streamlines CDE Approval and funding process

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Streamlining the Phase I

- 30 Day Review Requirements
- DTSC Determination:
 - no action (44%) or
 - further action required
- DTSC Review Costs = \$1500

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Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA)

- Using information from the Phase I, focus sampling and analysis on identified areas of concern
- Determine if there is a release or potential release
- Estimate the threat to public health and the environment
- Identify the need for further investigation and/or remediation
- Address the informational needs of the community

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Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA)

- REA II Qualification Required
- Prepared in accordance with DTSC PEA Guidance Manual
- Follows supplemental advisories including:
 - Active Soil Gas Investigations
 - Naturally-occurring Petroleum
 - Lead-based Paint
 - Naturally-occurring Asbestos
- Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA)
- Human Health-Based Risk Screening Assessment using an unrestricted land use scenario

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Streamlining the PEA

- Comprehensive Scoping Meetings may eliminate formal Workplan
- Focused Technical Memorandum Workplans for certain land uses (e.g., former agriculture sites)
- Standard Oversight Agreements
- Expedited reviews (30-60 days)
- DTSC Determination:
 - No Further Action (80%) or
 - Further Action is Required
- DTSC Average Costs = \$13,000

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Supplemental Site Investigations

- Follow up to PEA
- Confirm and delineate extent of contamination
- Bifurcate Soil and Groundwater investigations that do not pose a threat to human health

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Advisories/Guidance Documents

- Clean Imported Fill Advisory
- PCBs in Schools
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Advisory
- Evaluating Lead-Based Paint
- Sampling Agricultural Soils
- Conducting Active Soil Gas Investigations
- Conducting Further Response Actions at School Sites

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DTSC Schools Website: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/schools/schools.html>

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Questions and Answers

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