



HALACO SUPERFUND SITE

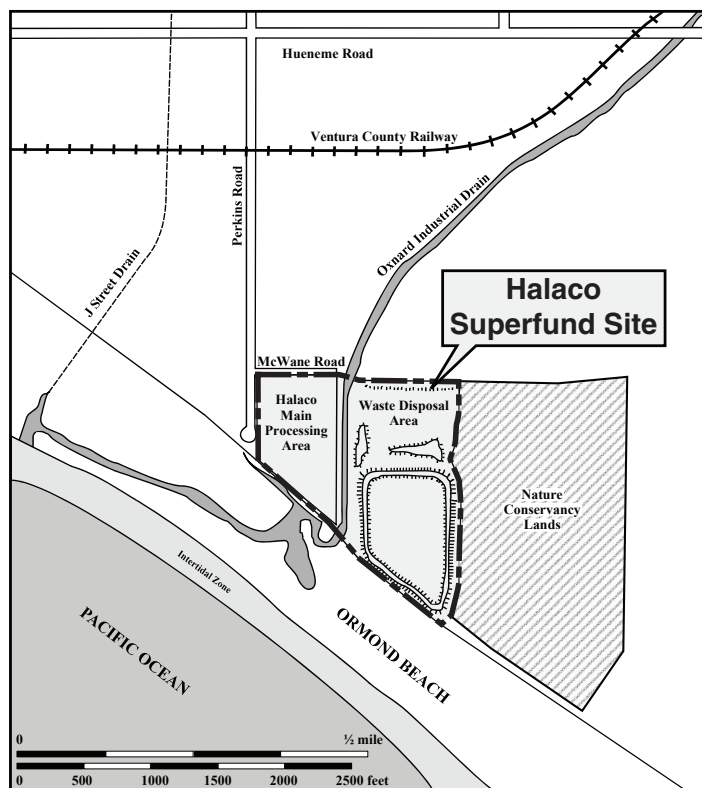
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • January 2009

The Remedial Investigation: EPA laying the groundwork for cleanup

Site Background

The Halaco site is located in coastal Ventura County at 6200 Perkins Road in Oxnard, California. Halaco Engineering Company operated a secondary metal smelter at the site from 1965 to 2004, recovering aluminum, magnesium, and zinc from scrap materials. The site includes an 11-acre parcel containing the former smelter and an adjacent 26-acre area where wastes were deposited and managed.

To the south of the site is a remnant of the Ormond Beach wetlands, which are one of the few remaining wetlands in the area and home to several endangered or threatened species, including the snowy plover and California least tern.



Halaco Superfund Site Location

During its 40 years of operation, Halaco produced a large quantity of waste from its metal recovery process. An estimated 700,000 cubic yards of waste remain onsite.

Halaco ended operations at the property in 2004. Future use of the privately-owned property remains uncertain.

EPA Cleanup Efforts – Remedial Investigation Continues

The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) primary mission at the Halaco site is to clean up contaminated soil, sediment, and water where they pose a health risk to people or wildlife. Before cleanup work can begin, EPA must first determine the nature and extent of chemical and radiologic contamination at the site. Much is known from past testing by EPA and others, but many questions remain. Some of those questions are:

- Has contaminated groundwater traveled offsite?
- Are buried waste materials still reactive and capable of generating ammonia and other gases?
- Are buried wastes in contact with and contaminating groundwater?
- Are the wastes contaminated with dioxins or other organic contaminants?
- Is there residual contamination from the fuels and oils that Halaco stored and used onsite?
- How much Halaco waste material is there in the bottom sediments of the Oxnard Industrial Drain and Ormond Beach lagoon?
- Is Halaco's waste having a measurable impact on the quality of the water in the Oxnard Industrial Drain or the Ormond Beach lagoon?
- Is there other waste offsite?

EPA began answering these questions in 2007, by seeking information on Halaco's operations and waste disposal practices from the Oxnard Fire Department, the Ventura County District Attorney's office, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, the CA Dept. of Public Health Radiologic Health Branch, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control, former Halaco personnel, and others. We also acquired and learned as much as possible from past test data, and began new testing needed to understand the movement of groundwater and surface water at the site. EPA and its contractors expect to complete two reports in January or February 2009 describing our findings to date:

“Preliminary Evaluation of the Sources, Nature, Extent, and Movement of Contamination in Surface Water and Groundwater, Halaco Site”

“Screening-Level Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment, Halaco Site”

Both reports will be available on EPA's website and at the South Oxnard Branch Library.

The next step is to conduct additional testing of soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water needed to answer as many of the outstanding questions as possible. We are preparing a plan for the additional testing, and expect the testing to begin in early to mid-2009. We will provide future updates on our testing efforts and other site developments on EPA's website, through future factsheets, and occasional presentations at public meetings.

The testing and investigation efforts are part of the Remedial Investigation of the Site. After sufficient information is available, most likely in late 2009, EPA will begin to identify and evaluate cleanup options as part of the Feasibility Study for the site and then make a formal cleanup proposal to the community in a document called the “Proposed Plan”.



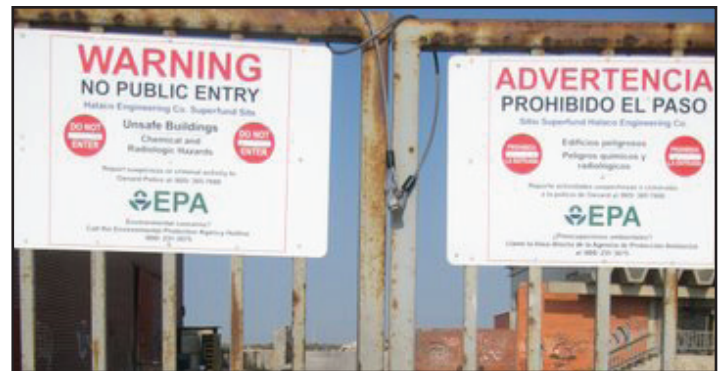
Water level measurements at the Halaco Site

Site Security

It is illegal and unsafe for unauthorized and untrained individuals to enter the Halaco property.

EPA continues to work with the property owners, the Oxnard Police, and the community to prevent trespassing onto the Halaco Site. It is illegal for unauthorized people to enter the property, and the unsafe buildings, heavy metal contamination and elevated levels of radiation pose health and safety hazards to untrained personnel.

EPA, the property owners, and the Oxnard Police continue periodic inspections and patrols of the site. EPA has posted large bilingual warning signs at six locations around the site and the property owners have removed debris, trimmed vegetation, and repaired fences to improve security.



Warning signs posted at the Halaco Site

Halaco Community Involvement Plan Completed

In January 2008, EPA interviewed 27 community members about their knowledge of the Halaco site, their concerns, and how best to share information about the site. Based on these interviews, we have prepared a 29-page Halaco Community Involvement Plan. The Plan proposes community outreach activities to promote communication between EPA and interested community members and help EPA keep the community informed about the site. Some of the highlights of the plan are:

- EPA will continue to provide updates on its efforts to clean up the Halaco site at regularly scheduled meetings of the Ormond Beach Task Force, local city councils, and other groups
- English and Spanish-language versions of Halaco fact sheets will be distributed via traditional and e-mail mailing lists and made available at the Oxnard library and other public locations

- Site-related documents will continue to be made available on the EPA Web site, at the Oxnard library, and upon request from the Region 9 Superfund Records Center
- EPA will translate public outreach documents into Spanish, provide Spanish translation at community meetings, and ensure that materials are easily understood

English and Spanish-language versions of the Halaco Community Involvement Plan are available on EPA's website and at the South Oxnard Library.

Site Repository

South Oxnard Branch Library

4300 Saviers Rd.
Oxnard, CA, 93033
(805) 385-8129
Hours: Mon. –Thur. 10:30-8:00pm
Sat. 9:00am-5:30pm



EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000
Hours: Mon. –Fri.: 8:00am-5:00pm

Site Overview

For more site information visit:
www.epa.gov/region09/halaco



State of California Health Assessment

The Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the California Department of Public Health expects to complete a draft Halaco Public Health Assessment in early 2009. The report will assess the potential health hazard from contact with contamination at the Site, include recommendations on how to reduce exposure to Site contamination, and summarize the State's efforts to determine if any community health concerns could be related to Site contamination. For more information on the Assessment, contact Dr. Marilyn Underwood at Marilyn.Underwood@cdph.ca.gov

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

As part of the EPA Superfund program, EPA offers Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) to assist community groups in interpreting site-related technical information. One group at each Superfund site may obtain one grant for up to \$50,000 in federal funds to be distributed over a three-year period. Some of the eligibility requirements include:

- Incorporated 501(c)3 non-profits demonstrating current or past interest in the Site
- Able to meet a 20% matching funds requirement (donated goods and services or other in-kind contributions are permissible), or obtain a waiver of this requirement
- Capable of preparing a plan to use technical assistance parallel with ongoing cleanup activities

For more information about the TAG program, please contact Alejandro Diaz at (415) 972-3242.



Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on EPA's mailing list for the Halaco site, please return the coupon below to: Alejandro Diaz, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-6-3), San Francisco, CA 94105. Or, you may email the information to Alejandro at: diaz.alejandro@epa.gov

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

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How to Contact Us

The following EPA staff members are responsible for the Halaco site:

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You may also call EPA's toll-free Superfund hotline and leave a message that will be forwarded to the appropriate EPA staff. The hotline number is **1-800-231-2075**.



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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Alejandro Diaz (Halaco 1/09)

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