

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. EPA Requests Public Comment on Proposed Remedy (Cleanup) for Romic East Palo Alto Facility

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requests public comment on a proposed remedy to address soil and ground water contamination at the Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation (Romic) facility in East Palo Alto, California. Romic is a 14-acre hazardous waste management facility that is undergoing closure. Historical operations included solvent recycling, fuel blending, wastewater treatment and hazardous waste storage and treatment. Waste management practices dating back to the 1950s resulted in the contamination of soil and ground water below the Romic facility.

U.S. EPA proposes enhanced biological treatment as the preferred remedial technology to address soil and ground water contamination at the Romic facility. Enhanced biological treatment uses cheese whey and molasses as a food source for natural microbes that live in the soil and ground water below the Romic facility. These microbes break down the contaminants into carbon dioxide, water and salt. Tests of this technology at the Romic facility have shown as much as a 99% decrease in the amount of contamination.

In addition to the enhanced biological treatment, the proposed remedy would require Romic to excavate and remove some contaminated soils, monitor the effectiveness of the remedy, maintain the existing site cover, provide sufficient funding for the site cleanup and establish land use restrictions for the Facility property. Romic is currently undergoing closure and will be responsible for investigating and remediating the contamination below buildings, tanks and structures after they are demolished.

U.S. EPA is establishing a 45-day comment period for this remedy decision that begins on September 17 and ends on November 1, 2007. A public meeting/hearing where the proposed remedy will be presented and verbal comments recorded is scheduled for October 10, 2007 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the East Palo Alto City Hall (First Floor), which is located at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Spanish translation will be available at the meeting/hearing. Site documents in the Administrative Record for the Romic remedy decision are available for public review at the East Palo Alto Public Library, which is located on the first floor of City Hall, or at the U.S. EPA office located at 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Comments on the proposed remedy may be submitted to U.S. EPA during the public comment period in writing by fax, email, postmarked mail (no later than November 1, 2007), or in person at the public meeting/hearing. Written comments should be sent to: Ronald Leach, Project Manager, U.S. EPA (WST-5), 75 Hawthorne St., S.F. CA 94105, Fax: (415) 947-3530 or email: leach.ronald@epa.gov. For questions, please call Ronald Leach at (415) 972-3362.