



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreys, EPA Region 9 Site Screening Coordinator

FROM: Daniel Hafley, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *DH*

DATE: June 28, 1988

SUBJECT: Reassessment of Old Caldor Lumber Company Yard, Diamond Springs

EPA ID#: CAD980637417

THROUGH: Chris Lichens, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *CL*

COPY: FIT Master File  
Patty Cook, Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
California Department of Health Services, Sacramento

### INTRODUCTION

Under Technical Directive Document number P9-8709-019, Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) has been tasked to reassess all Preliminary Assessments (PAs) in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) with "active" or "pending" status according to guidelines established to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The strategy for determination of further action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) is based solely on each site's potential to achieve a score high enough on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This strategy is intended to identify those sites posing the highest relative risk to human health or the environment. All other sites needing remedial or enforcement follow-up will be referred to the States or an appropriate Federal agency.

This site was evaluated primarily using the original HRS model. Additionally, this site was also evaluated for its potential to score using the draft revised HRS model. The following is a summary of FIT's findings with regard to this site.

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recycled paper

SUMMARY

The Old Caldor Lumber Company Yard (Caldor) is located 0.75 miles northwest of the town of Diamond Springs in El Dorado County, California. In December 1966 a fire broke out at the site, which was being used as a storage area for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) equipment at the time. Several buildings containing crates of equipment were destroyed and a large transformer was damaged.

According to an EPA Form 8900-1 filed by SMUD in 1981, in 1967 5,000 gallons of mineral oil from the damaged SMUD transformer, which probably contained Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), was used as a dust suppressant on two roads near the Caldor site. The oil may also have been used for dust control on the site yard. PCBs have high toxicity and persistence values and are known carcinogens.

In 1974 Pacific Southeast Forest Products bought the Caldor site and constructed new buildings on the old foundations, which were still intact after the fire. One of the potentially contaminated roads is no longer in use. The other road is still occasionally used.

→ A PA of Caldor conducted by the California Department of Health Services (DOHS) in 1984 concluded that the potential for PCB contamination at the site did exist, and DOHS recommended that a medium-priority site inspection be conducted. In December 1986 DOHS collected 15 soil samples in and around the site including both roads. Samples were analyzed for PCBs and pesticides; lab results indicated no detectable levels of any compounds. Detection limits ranged from 15-300 ppb.

The communities of Placerville, El Dorado, and Diamond Springs are all situated within a 3-mile radius of the Caldor site, and have a combined population of approximately 13,000. According to El Dorado Irrigation District officials, piped water from the Sly Park Reservoir, located 15 miles southeast, supplies all of Placerville and 90-95% of Diamond Springs and El Dorado users. The remaining 200-400 residents rely on groundwater, which is found locally at 150-250 feet beneath ground surface. Surface water within a 3-mile radius of the Caldor site consists of small streams that receive most of their water during Spring runoff. None of this surface water is used for drinking purposes; there is some irrigation and noncontact recreational use during periods of high flow.

*water supply*

Since surface water use is limited to irrigation and recreational use, and groundwater is at considerable depth and used by less than 400 people within a 3-mile radius of the Caldor site, the surface water and groundwater route scores appear to be low. Soil testing conducted by DOHS in the area of oil spraying revealed no evidence of PCB contamination; therefore, the potential for an air release also appears to be low. Based on a combination of surface and groundwater scores, it does not appear that the site is eligible for inclusion on the NPL.

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RECOMMENDATION

1) EPA

FIT recommends no further action (NFRAP) for the Old Caldor Lumber Company Yard-Diamond Springs site. It does not appear that this site could qualify for inclusion on the NPL due to the following factors:

- o low surface water use in the area;
- o low groundwater use in the area;
- o low potential for groundwater contamination due to depth of aquifer; and
- o low potential for an air release due to nondetectable levels of soil contamination.

2) State or Other Agency

Copies of this reassessment will be sent to DOHS and the Regional Water Quality Control Board for their consideration.

<u>EPA CONCURRENCE</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Date</u>
No Further Action Under CERCLA	<u>RE</u>	<u>7/27/00</u>
High-Priority SSI	_____	_____
Medium-Priority SSI	_____	_____

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