



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

SFUND RECORDS CTR  
2068377

## RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ACTION

DATE: January 19, 1987  
PREPARED BY: Matt Lacey, Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
SITE: Stauffer Chemical Company  
200 Industrial Way  
Brisbane, CA 94005  
San Mateo County

TDD #: F9-8612-46  
EPA ID #: CAD980636948

### 1. Initial FIT Conclusions and Recommendations For Further Action:

#### a) Site Description:

The Stauffer Chemical Company (SCC) operated and owned a bone-glue and bone-char plant at 200 Industrial Way, Brisbane, California, from 1951 to 1963 (see Site Location Map, Figure 1.0). The site is currently occupied by the Moore Manufacturing Company (3). Apparently, all by-products of the glue extraction process were sold as fertilizer. The only wastes generated were in the preparation of hides for glue extraction. The chrome-tanned hide material was treated with sulfuric acid to dissolve the chrome before extraction and the chrome solution was discharged into an area sewer line. Similar activities occurred under different ownership as far back as 1878 (1). There is no information available regarding the size of the facility.

Aerial photo interpretation by the Abandoned Site Program (ASP) of the Department of Health Services (DOHS) indicates potential ponds on-site, but a Site Inspection by ASP in 1981 did not locate them. The ponds could belong to neighboring Southern Pacific Railroad (SP) (2).

#### Apparent Problem:

Apparently unregulated processing of hides took place at the SCC site for over 80 years. There is uncertainty regarding the types and quantities of chemicals used. According to SCC "organics" were the only wastes generated, but a chromium/sulfuric acid solution was a waste product that may have been



# Figure 1.0 Site Location Map

**Stauffer Chemical Company**

**200 Industrial Way, Brisbane, CA**



**Thomas Brothers Map Scale: 1 Inch to 1/2 mile**

released to the environment. Hydrogen peroxide and sodium hydroxide were also used but supposedly were never present as wastes. Upon closure of the site in 1963, 10 to 20 feet of imported fill material was used to prepare the site for a nearby freeway (1, 4).

Due to the lack of historical data, it is unclear whether observed ponds belonged to SCC or to SP. The ASP conducted a site inspection on July 14, 1981, and was unable to locate any ponds or landfills (5). The adjacent SP site is presently undergoing remedial investigation under the California Superfund authority (6).

- o Observed Release: There is no information available concerning an observed release.
- o Direct Contact/Fire and Explosion: The present threat from a direct contact or fire/explosion incident is unknown.
- o Waste Type/Quantity: According to SCC, the hydrogen peroxide and sodium hydroxide used in the glue extraction process were constituents of the fertilizer by-product. Also, the sulfuric acid/chromium solution was apparently discharged to a sewer line (1). Miscellaneous lab reagents were disposed of upon closure of operations (4).

Specific quantities of compounds discharged, leaked or spilled on-site are not known.

- o Groundwater: The uppermost aquifer is brackish. The aquifer used for drinking water is several hundred feet below ground surface. There is no evidence of inter-connectedness of aquifers. The only known wells within one mile of SCC are used to monitor the SP site under the California Superfund authority. It is not known if any industrial or municipal wells are within a three-mile radius. The City of Brisbane receives water from the Crystal Springs Reservoir, approximately ten miles to the south (9).

The net precipitation as calculated for the months November through April is 6 1/2 inches (7).

- o Surface Water: The nearest surface water is the San Francisco Bay, approximately 3/4 of a mile east of the site. The facility slopes very gradually toward the bay. It is not known whether the 10 to 20 feet of fill material used to cover the site in 1963 is still intact. Thus the potential for surface water runoff coming in contact with contaminants on the SCC site is unknown.

The one-year, 24-hour rainfall is approximately 3 inches (8).

c) Conclusions/Recommendations:

The property at 200 Industrial Way in Brisbane, California was owned by SCC from 1951 to 1963. Bones and hides were processed to obtain glue and fertilizer by-product. Similar activities occurred under different ownership as early as 1878. According to SCC, miscellaneous lab reagents were disposed on-site. Hydrogen peroxide, sodium hydroxide, sulfuric acid and chromium were also used on-site.

Upon closure of the site in 1963, about 10 to 20 feet of fill was used to cover the site for a road project. Any ponds that existed would have been covered and therefore would be difficult to locate.

No evidence to support an observed release is available. The groundwater below SCC is brackish and there is no evidence to support inter-connectedness of aquifers. The nearest surface water, the San Francisco Bay, is 3/4 of a mile away.

FIT recommendations are as follows:

It appears that this site is an unlikely candidate for inclusion on the CERCLA National Priorities List due to the lack of a target population. However, SCC should be considered for a low priority Site Inspection due to the lack of information regarding the historical operations and waste management practices.

2. FIT Review/Concurrence:

*John Mac* 2/2/87

3. EPA Recommendation For Further Action:

4. Response Termination: No Further Action \_\_\_\_; Active \_\_\_\_;  
Pending \_\_\_\_.

Justification:

P.A./S.I. CONTACT LOG

Facility Name: Stauffer Chemical Company  
Facility ID: CAD980636948

Name	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
JoAnne Cox	RWQCB-Oakland	464-1255	12/16/86	No file exists for Brisbane site.
Gene Boyer	DOHS-Emergency	540-2043	12/22/86	No results available from ASP sampling.
Denise Kato	DOHS-Emergency	540-2043	1/9/87	See Contact Report.
Denise Kato	DOHS-Emergency	540-2043	1/23/87	See Contact Report.
Robin Breuer	RWQCB	464-1255	1/23/87	No wells within 1 mile radius. Drinking water aquifer is several hundred feet deep.
Carl Wilcox	Department of Fish and Game	(707) 944-2011	1/28/87	Wetlands on east side of Bay, no endangered species.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Department of Health Services  
ADDRESS: Emeryville, CA  
PERSON CONTACTED: Denise Kato  
PHONE: 540-3414  
FROM: Matt Lacey  
TO: File  
DATE: 1/23/87  
SUBJECT: Stauffer Chemical Company

After attempting to score the adjacent Southern Pacific Railroad yard on the MITRE scoring package, it was determined that the aquifer of concern is brackish and is not used for groundwater. There is no evidence of inter-connectedness of aquifers.

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AGENCY: DOHS - Emeryville  
ADDRESS: Emeryville CA  
PERSON CONTACTED: Denise Kato  
PHONE: 540-3414  
FROM: Matt Lacey  
TO: File  
DATE: 1/9/87  
SUBJECT: Stauffer Chemical Company

Stauffer Chemical Company was not considered as part of the Southern Pacific (SP) Railroad yard for RI/FS purposes. They were unable to locate any ponds or any landfill. The oil tank referred to in the ASP site inspection is located on SP property.