

Ascon Huntington Beach Engineered Misting Containment Pilot Test

May 2023

A safer, cleaner future for the community

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the Huntington Beach community as we work together to finish the cleanup of the Ascon Landfill Site.

Ascon began landfill operations in 1938 in what is now southeast Huntington Beach. Due to some of the materials brought to the landfill over the decades, controlling odor during the final Site remediation is one of our biggest challenges.

In coordination with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Ascon will be pilot testing Engineered Misting Containment (EMC) onsite. Components of this technology have been previously tested offsite. We're committed to controlling and managing odors as much as possible and are continually evaluating products and best practices to improve odor management. Through EMC pilot testing, we will work with DTSC to demonstrate the effectiveness of misting containment technologies to limit odors during future excavation work at the Site.

Since 2019, when remediation work was paused, the Ascon technical team has dedicated significant time and effort working on odor-minimizing solutions.

What is Engineered Misting Containment (EMC)?

Engineered Misting Containment improves upon Enhanced Odor Mitigation technologies used during emergency repair work at the north berm in 2020, which resulted in few odor complaints during two months of mobilization and active excavation work. Enhanced Odor Mitigation includes using a combination of odor control sprayed covers such as **Posi-Shell®** and misted or sprayed odor suppressants, such as **CupriDyne® Clean**. Posi-Shell® is applied from two or more directions toward the excavation areas to help seal off freshly exposed and potentially odorous surfaces. A sprayed cover, **Rusmar foam**, is applied to excavated material after being loaded onto trucks and when being moved around the Site to help reduce odors beyond the area being excavated. It's important to note that odor suppressants used at the Site are non-toxic. Safety Data Sheets on these products can be found on [asconhb.com](https://www.asconhb.com).

EMC expands upon Enhanced Odor Mitigation technologies by adding mesh awnings, mesh walls and barrier walls to minimize misted odor suppressant that leaves the excavation area. The EMC method enables more robust delivery of misted or sprayed odor suppressants.

What will be monitored for during pilot work for the safety of the community and workers?

During the pilot work, ambient air will be monitored at the Site perimeter and downwind of excavation areas. Excavation area monitoring will include monitoring of odors, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and reduced sulfur compounds. Upwind and air samples will be collected and tested for VOCs and reduced sulfur compounds.

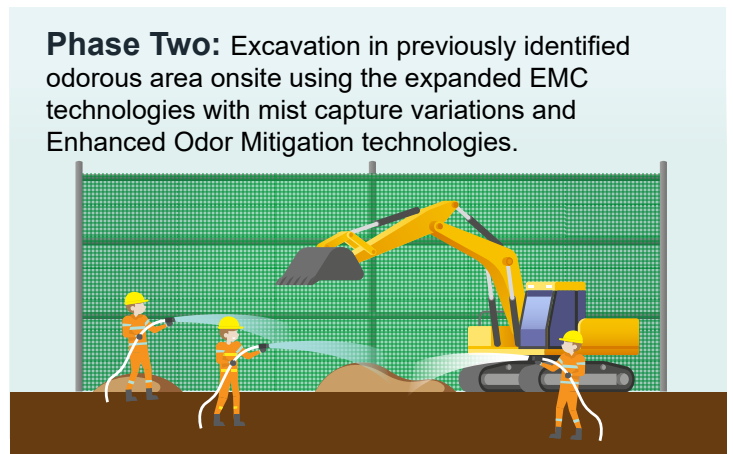
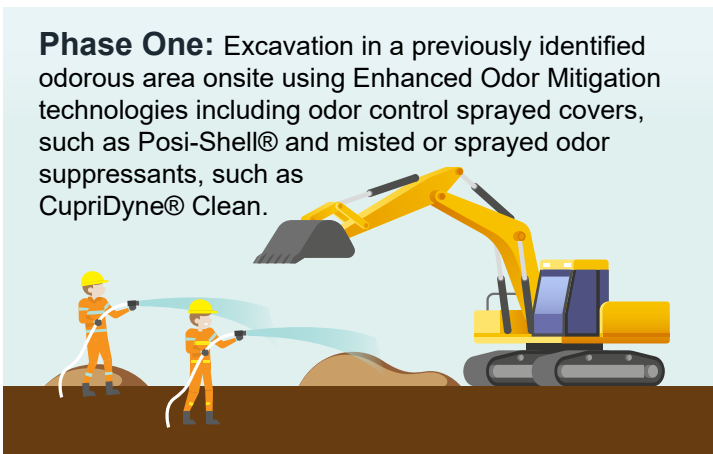
Are there public health risks expected from this excavation work?

No. Air monitoring results to date, including from periods of active excavation, do not indicate a threat to public health. DTSC will oversee pilot work onsite and review air quality monitoring results.

Air and dust monitoring on and offsite will continue 24/7 during this pilot work, and active odor monitoring will be conducted in the neighborhood immediately surrounding the Site when excavation is occurring. Near real-time air quality monitoring results during active work hours are available on asconhb.com for the community to view

What will the EMC pilot test evaluate?

The pilot test will evaluate the effectiveness of EMC during two phases of onsite excavation work with ongoing monitoring and odor observations. Air sampling results will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of each approach:



How long will the EMC pilot work take?

The pilot field work for EMC is expected to take approximately five weeks, with some additional time for mobilization and demobilization of equipment and workers.

What the Ascon Site will look like following remediation.



Where will EMC pilot work take place, and what will it include?

Pilot excavation work will occur near the southern Site boundary, away from homes and Edison High School. Due to the 16-foot barrier fence along Magnolia Street and Hamilton Avenue, most activities will not be visible to the public. The lead regulatory agency, DTSC, will be onsite monitoring the work.

Work will include:

- Evaluating the odor management technologies performance and effectiveness of the capture of odor suppressant mist using a variety of mist capture barriers and configurations (see images below)
- Ongoing air, dust and odor monitoring for the continued protection of the community
- Analyzing air monitoring data and observations to confirm the overall effectiveness of minimizing odors offsite
- Testing misters with water to gauge spray and drift in various settings

EMC variations planned for pilot testing



Pilot study intends to recreate conditions at the perimeter, but inside the Site. Number and configurations of mesh walls for mist capture during future field work will vary depending on wind direction, proximity to the perimeter and adjacent offsite land uses.

How will effectiveness be determined?

EMC odor mitigation technologies will be evaluated under a variety of conditions and effectiveness will be determined by the ability to limit odor and capture mist. Air monitoring and odor observations at the excavation areas will include testing for the primary odor drivers identified in the [Ascon Sitewide Odor Assessment Report](#), namely VOCs and reduced-sulfur compounds. Air samples will be collected for laboratory analysis.

What's next? When will remediation be complete?

We share the community's concern about odor and are committed to improving public confidence in the project when we restart the final cleanup. This includes evaluating and testing a range of available odor-control technologies.

Concurrent with this pilot work for Engineered Misting Containment, we will also be conducting a pilot test for Soil Vapor Extraction ([see explainer here](#)). Following both pilot tests, we will submit pilot test findings to DTSC and work with them to develop a final restart plan. Pilot test findings will help confirm and determine the schedule for the remainder of the remedy.

Have Questions? Concerns?

To learn more about the Ascon cleanup, and to sign up for our weekly project update email newsletter, visit our website at asconhb.com or call the Ascon Community Information Line at (714) 388-1825.