



August 10, 2026

The Honorable Yana Garcia, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email to DACinquiries@calepa.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment Requesting 2026 Disadvantaged Community Designation for Census Tract 6111004305 in the City of Port Hueneme, Ventura County

Dear Secretary Garcia,

On behalf of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), I am submitting a request to add the Port of Hueneme (Port) property and adjoining property of Navy Base Ventura County (Navy Base), which includes associated military housing (collectively: Subject Property) to the designated disadvantaged communities as part of the 2026 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Designation process (Figure 1). VCAPCD believes the Subject Property meets the legislative criteria of a DAC, as it is an established low-income community burdened by air pollution from shipping vessels, truck and railroad transportation through surrounding communities, and daily port and navy base operations.

The Subject Property is closely interconnected with the adjacent currently designated DAC. Many employees of the Port and Navy Base live in the currently designated DAC with their families, residents of the adjacent DAC visit both properties during special events or to attend the museum on the Navy Base Ventura County property, and pollution generated by activities on the Subject Property does not stop at the fenceline. Designating the Subject Property as a DAC is critical to enabling the Port to access grants and incentives to support zero-emissions operations, thereby reducing emissions and improving public health in the pollution-burdened low-income and DAC adjacent neighborhoods and communities, as well as the military families living on the Subject Property.

The 2012 Senate bill 535 gave CalEPA responsibility for identifying and designating DACs based on “geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria.” VCAPCD believes the Subject Property meets the DAC criteria. The Subject Property geographic location is within the geologic Oxnard Plain and Ventura County air basin, with wind transport from both offshore and onshore activities affecting the Subject Property. While this letter focuses on the air pollution burdening the Subject Property, it is important to note that the Department of Toxic Substances Control ENVIROSTOR website lists two cleanup sites that are both identified as “inactive – needs evaluation as of 7/1/2005” which is a data gap not captured in CalEnviroScreen 5.0.

CalEnviroScreen 5.0 recognizes that the Subject Property meets the socioeconomic criteria, as evident by the high poverty percentile (89.26%) and high housing burden percentile (98.56%). VCAPCD believes the public health and environmental hazards affecting the Subject Property are not accurately captured in CalEnviroScreen 5.0. For example, children's lead risk from housing data is missing despite the presence of older housing on the Navy Base, and pesticide use is listed as 0.00, even though pest control activities occur at both the Navy Base and Port.

Additionally, the neighboring CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Census Tract 6111004400, which is comprised of housing tracts (single-family and multi-family housing), schools, parks, and businesses, lists pesticide use at 96.21%, children's lead risk from housing at 67.49%, and toxic releases from facilities at 99.83%, with the likely source facilities being located in the census tracts adjacent to 6111004400 to the east (6111004715) and west (Subject Property, 6111004305). Lastly, the diesel particulate matter (PM10) percentile of the Subject Property is listed at 95.21%, placing it within the highest score range. Designating the Subject Property as a DAC would make additional grant opportunities available to the Port, supporting further reductions in air emissions and improvements in air quality for the Subject Property and surrounding communities.

Although the adjacent communities have long felt the burden from operations conducted at the Port, the Port has strived to achieve and has demonstrated leadership as a national model for clean port operations. Through sustained investments in electrical infrastructure, charging systems, and ZE cargo-handling technologies, the Port has proactively worked to reduce emissions and create healthier outcomes for surrounding communities, many of which have historically borne the disproportionate impacts of freight-related activity. It has achieved these results despite its lack of DAC designation, which has restricted its access to many grants which are required to fund activities within DACs. However, designating the Port as a DAC would open opportunities for additional grant funding to continue the transition to zero-emissions and encourage the freight-related activity (marine, railroad, and truck) traveling through the Port and impacted communities to do the same by having the infrastructure to support zero-emission freight movement.

I have attached several figures showing the approximate boundaries of the recommended DAC designation for the Port. Census tract 6111004305 is currently designated partially as a "low-income community" and partially as a "DAC ½ mile neighbor: low-income community" per the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0. VCAPCD staff believe those designated areas of census tract 6111004305 should be designated as a DAC.

You will note that the census tract immediately adjacent to the Port property, 6111004400, is designated "Disadvantaged community: CES, Low-income community" in Mapping Tool 4.0 and retains DAC designation in the preliminary 2026 designation. It appears to be an artifact of the drawing of the census tract line, which is drawn along the Port property fenceline, that makes the Port property not part of the DAC and the adjacent community a designated DAC. For comparison, much of the Port of Los Angeles is

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in census tract 6037980033, which is designated as a DAC in Mapping Tool 4.0 and the 2026 proposed designations.

VCAPCD strongly recommends designating the portions of census tract 6111004305 currently designated partially as a “low-income community” and “DAC ½ mile neighbor: low-income community” as DAC as part of the 2026 DAC designations. This designation would support the Port’s continued efforts to reduce emissions and thereby reduce their impact on the surrounding community.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-303-4016 or via email at aghasemi@vcapcd.org or Tyler Harris, Planning, Rules, and Incentives Division Manager at 805-303-3661 or tyler@vcapcd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Ghasemi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ali Ghasemi

Air Pollution Control Officer

Attached Figures:

Figure 1 – Preliminary 2026 Disadvantaged Communities Map: Approximate Recommended DAC

Figure 2 – California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0: Census Tract 6111004305 “DAC ½ mile neighbor: low-income community”

Figure 3 – California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0: Census Tract 6111004305 “low-income community”

Figure 4 – Google Maps Satellite Screenshot: Approximate Recommended DAC

Figure 5 – CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Screenshot: Census 6111004305 (Subject Property) Data Gaps

Figure 6 – CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Screenshot: Census 6111004400 Adjacent to Subject Property

Figure 7 – DTSC ENVIROSTOR Screenshot: Census 6111004400 (Subject Property) Data Gap

Figure 1 – Preliminary 2026 Disadvantaged Communities Map: Approximate Recommended DAC

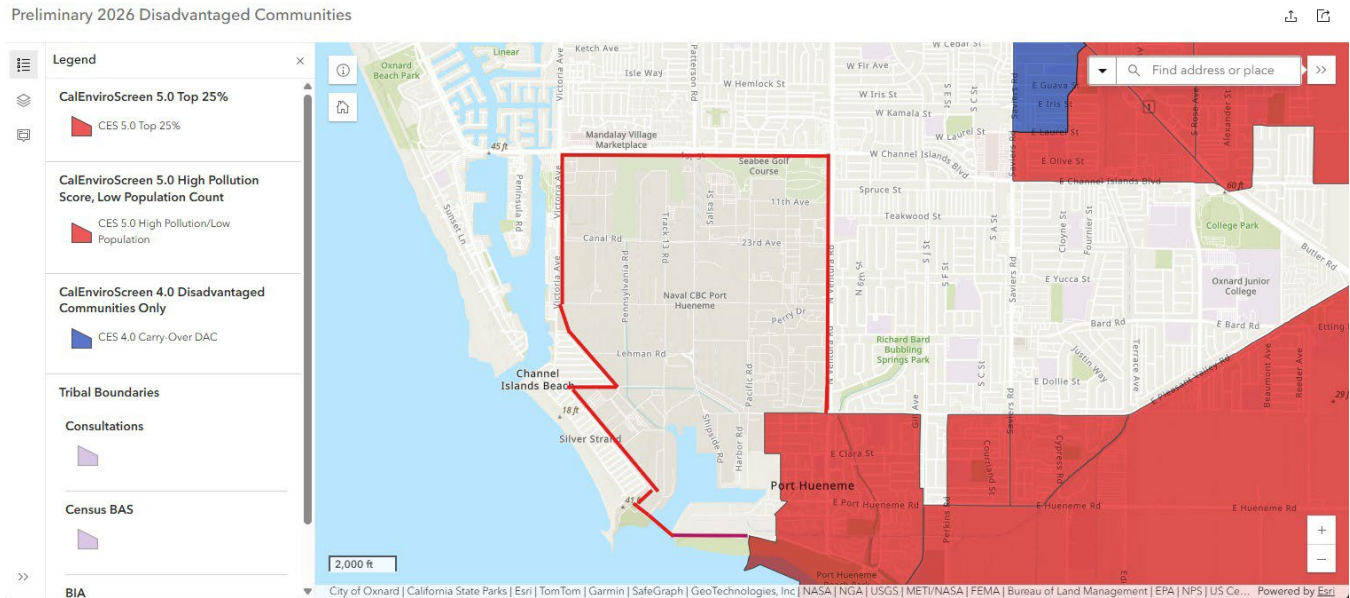


Figure 2 – California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0: Census Tract 6111004305 “DAC ½ mile neighbor: low-income community”

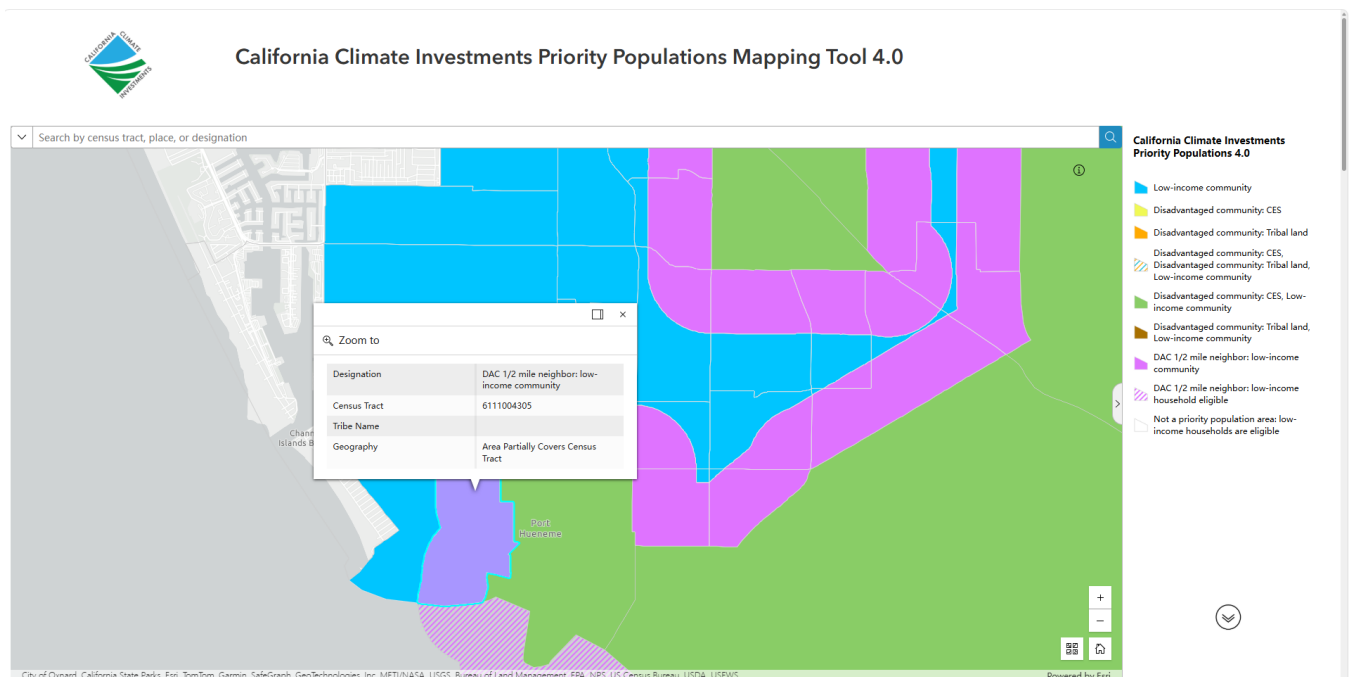


Figure 3 – California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0: Census Tract 6111004305 “low-income community”

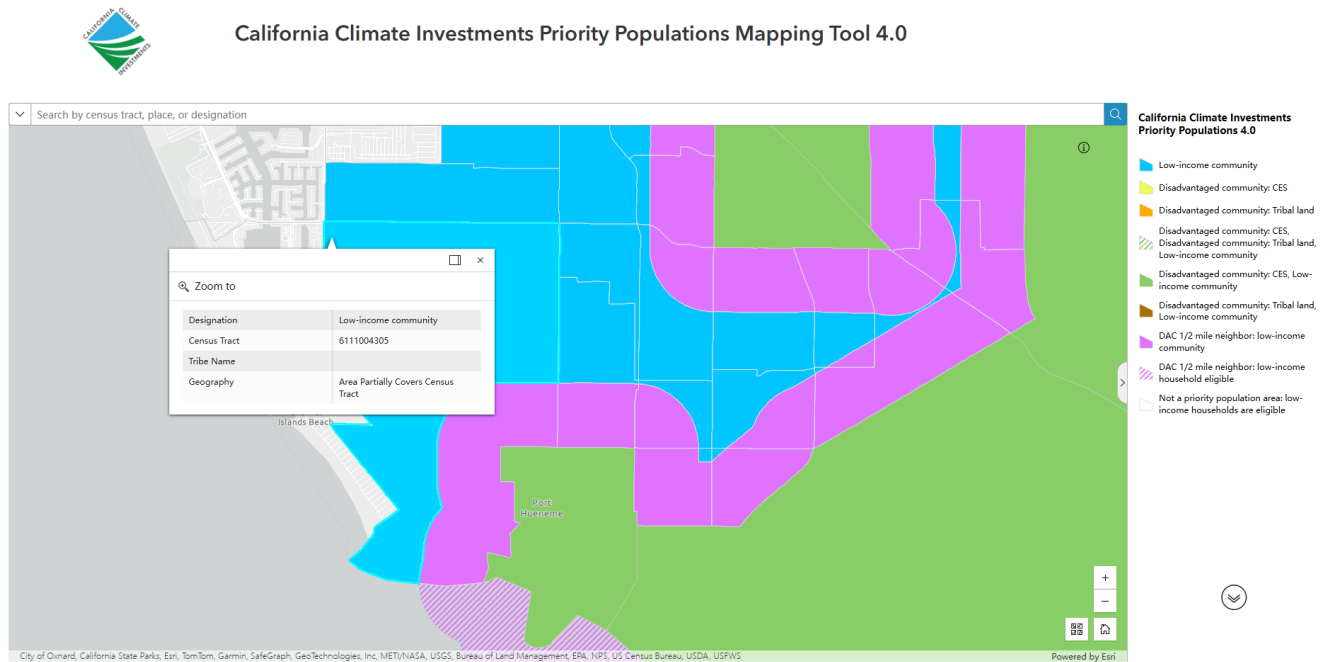


Figure 4 – Google Maps Satellite Screenshot: Approximate Recommended DAC

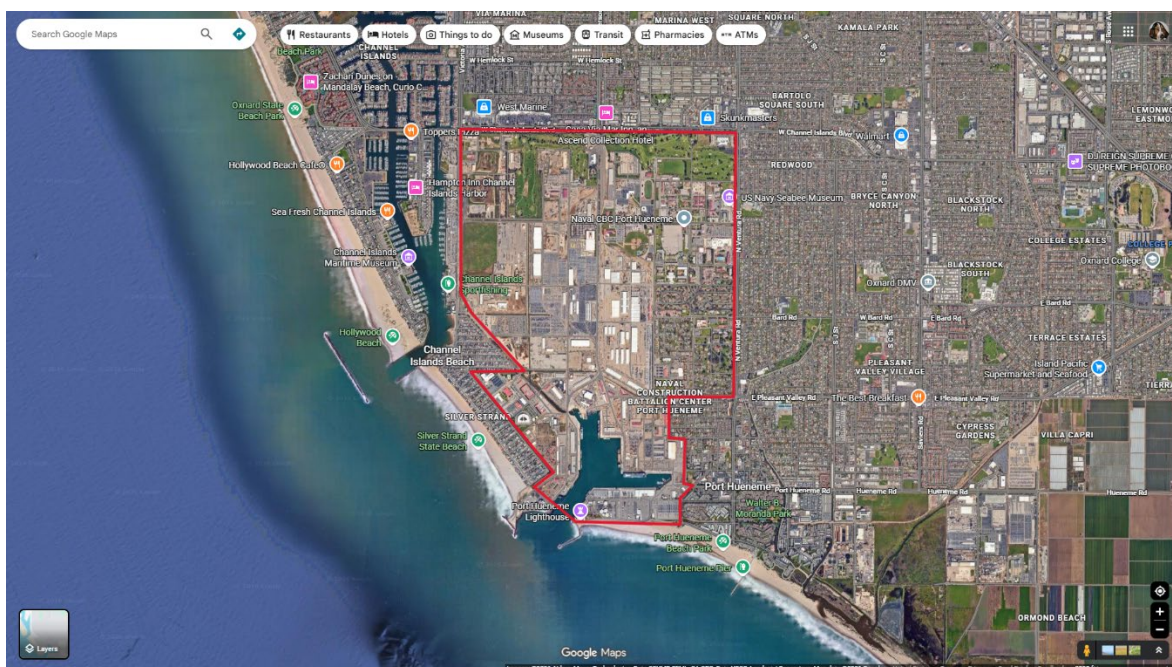


Figure 5 – CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Screenshot: Census 6111004305 (Subject Property) Data Gaps

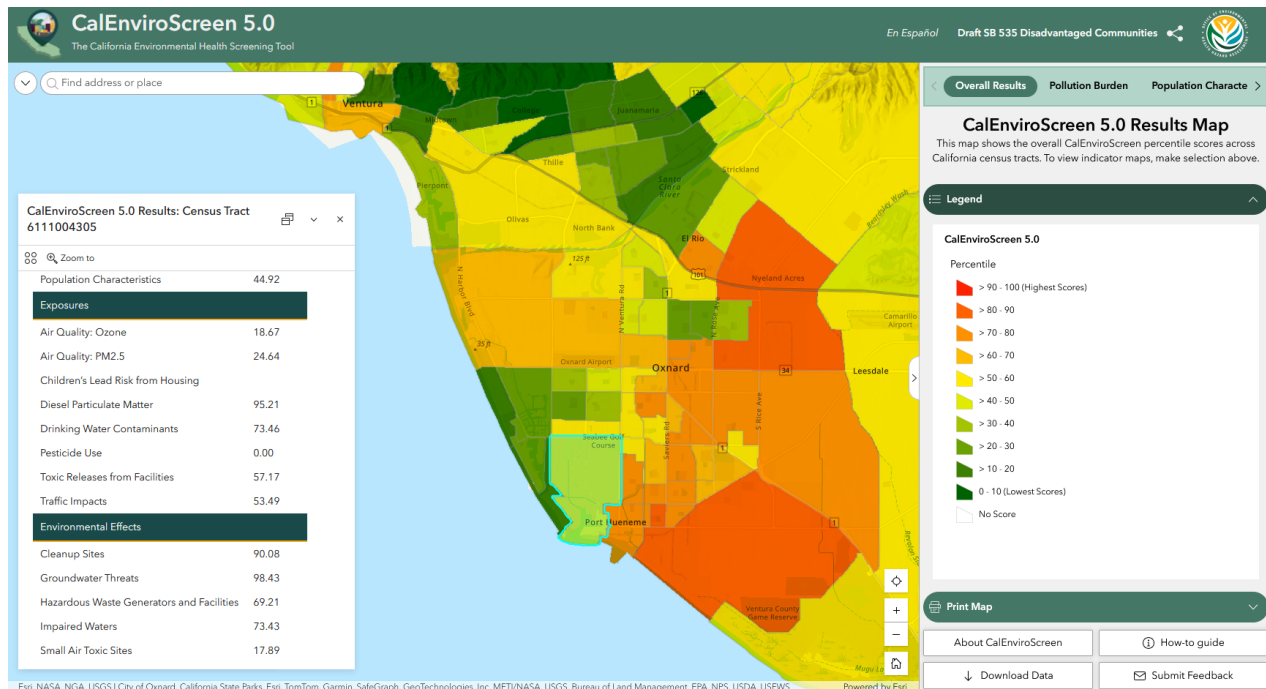


Figure 6 – CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Screenshot: Census 6111004400 Adjacent to Subject Property

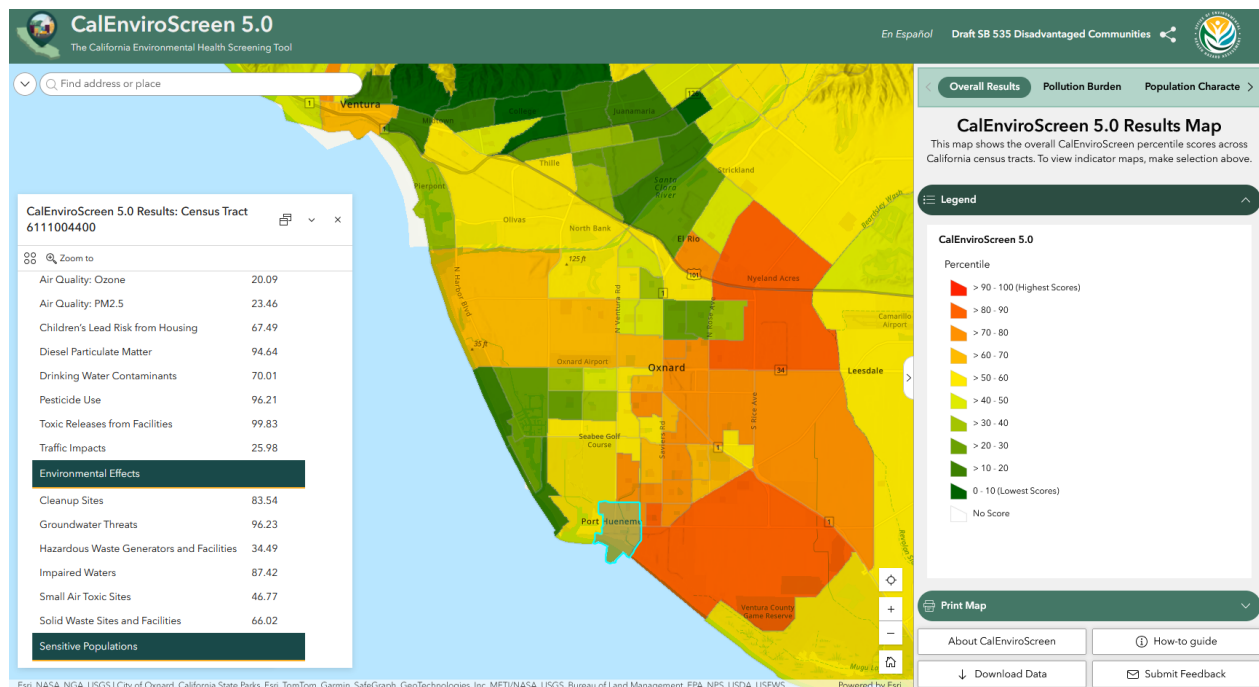


Figure 7 – DTSC ENVIROSTOR Screenshot: Census 6111004305 (Subject Property) Data Gap



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
ENVIROSTOR

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PORT HUENEME, CA
VENTURA COUNTY
SITE TYPE: FUDS

SUPERVISOR:
OFFICE:
PRESS CONTACT:
CENSUS TRACT:
CALENVIROSCREEN PERCENTILE SCORE:

[EILEEN MANANIAN](#)
CLEANUP CYPRESS
MediaRelations@dtsc.ca.gov
6111004305
35-40%

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Site Information

CLEANUP STATUS
INACTIVE - NEEDS EVALUATION AS OF 7/1/2005

SITE TYPE: FUDS
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: NO
ACRES: 0 ACRES
APN: NONE SPECIFIED
CLEANUP OVERSIGHT AGENCIES:
DTSC - SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM - **LEAD AGENCY**

ENVIROSTOR ID: 80000857
SITE CODE:
SPECIAL PROGRAM:
FUNDING: DERA
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: 38
SENATE DISTRICT: 21

Regulatory Profile

PAST USE(S) THAT CAUSED CONTAMINATION
NONE SPECIFIED

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
NONE SPECIFIED

POTENTIAL MEDIA AFFECTED
NONE SPECIFIED

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