

Fact Sheet  
September  
2001

# CWMI Seeks Permit Renewal of Kettleman Hills Facility



**KETTLEMAN CITY, CALIFORNIA**

*It is DTSC's  
mission to protect  
public health  
and the  
environment  
from  
harmful exposure  
to hazardous  
substances.*

## Introduction

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to provide you information about the proposed renewal of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Proposed Permit Renewal) for Chemical Waste Management, Incorporated (CWMI), Kettleman Hills Facility (Kettleman). DTSC is considering approving the renewal of the Kettleman permit and invites you to attend a public meeting and a public hearing on this proposal. See page two for a map showing the facility's location. The closest residence is two and one third miles away from the Kettleman fence line and there are no schools or day care centers within three miles. The town of Kettleman City lies about three miles away from the Kettleman fence line.

This fact sheet provides information about the historical background to the Proposed Permit Renewal, facility description, proposed changes from the previous permit, the permit renewal process, public involvement opportunities, and the location of the three information repositories.

## Public Comment Period

**September 25, 2001 to November 8, 2001**

**Written comments may be sent to:**

**William Veile at the address listed in the text**

## Public Meeting

**October 9, 2001**

**Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria  
General Petroleum Avenue  
7 P.M.**

## Public Hearing

**October 25, 2001**

**Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria  
General Petroleum Avenue  
7 P.M.**

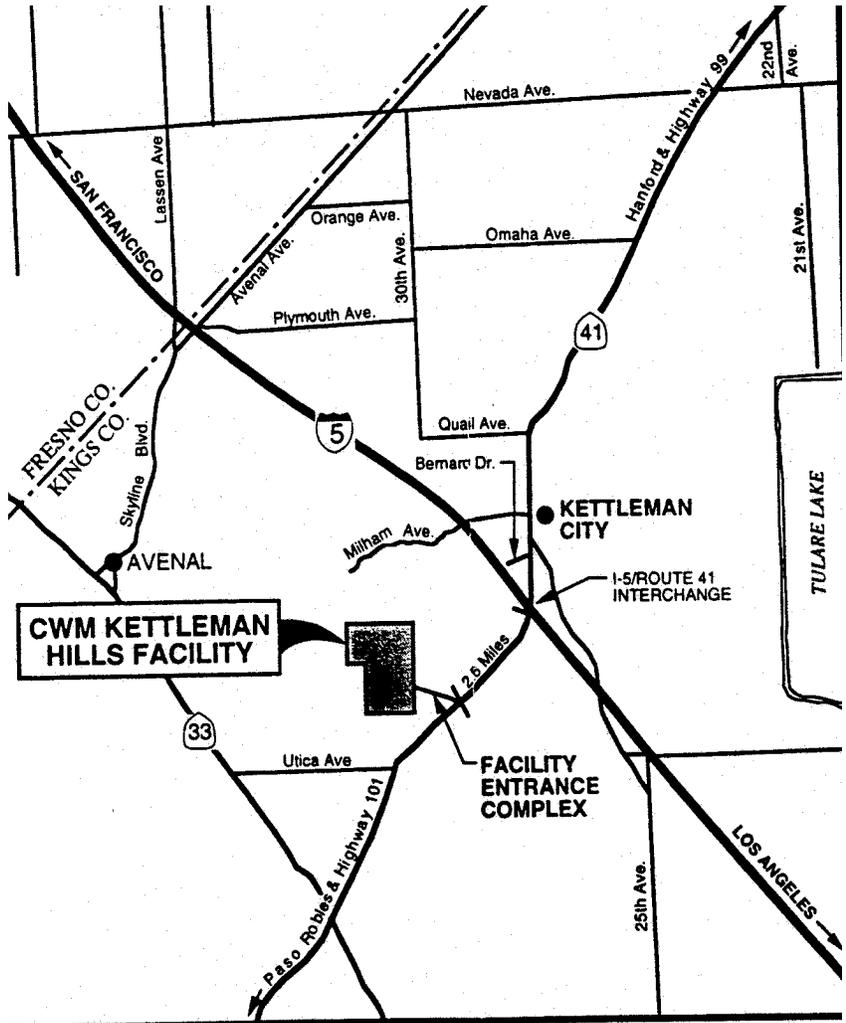
State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*



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## Background

Kettleman is part of Waste Management Incorporated (WMI), a major international waste handling corporation. WMI operates Kettleman as a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility on 499 acres of a 1600 acre parcel. Under the Proposed Permit Renewal, Kettleman would accept virtually all solid, semisolid, and liquid hazardous waste. It excludes all biological agents or infectious waste, radioactive materials, municipal solid waste (except for Landfill Unit B-19), compressed gases and explosives.

Waste disposal activity began at Kettleman in the 1960s and 1970s as land disposal of municipal sewer waste. In June 1975, Kings County issued a conditional use permit (CUP) for land disposal of oil wastes to McKay Trucking. In March 1977, Kings County expanded the CUP to include evaporation ponds and certain industrial wastes (organic solvents, paints, polymer resins, fertilizer and soil amendment residues).

McKay Trucking changed its name to Environmental Disposal Services Inc. (EDS). EDS applied for and received a CUP to handle Class I industrial wastes. In April 1979, CWMI purchased Kettleman from EDS. From 1982 to 1984, CWMI applied for a variety of permits including storage, burial and waste treatment of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (later DTSC) each issued operating hazardous waste facility permits in 1987, and subsequently combined the permits in June 1993 when U.S. EPA authorized DTSC to implement the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

## Facility Description

Kettleman accepts most types of hazardous waste for treatment, storage, and/or disposal. Before disposal, Kettleman sends certain wastes requiring special treatment to the PCB/Flushing Storage Unit, or the Final Stabilization Unit. Solid wastes not

requiring treatment go directly into Landfill Unit B-18. Kettleman may send certain PCB wastes to Landfill Unit B-16 or Landfill Unit B-18.

Kettleman also operates three active surface impoundments. Because of the Clean Air Act restrictions, most of the waste entering the impoundments is generated on site as leachate from the landfill units. Leachate is liquid that has traveled through the waste and collects in sumps at the lowest point of a landfill. The leachate is then pumped into holding tanks until laboratory analysis results show that the leachate meets the standard for release to the impoundments. In some cases, Kettleman may accept certain hazardous wastes and then transfer these wastes to other facilities that have the capability to treat or dispose of them.

DTSC conducted a Compliance Enforcement Inspection in October/ November of 2000. There was one minor violation: DTSC found the eye wash unit in the laboratory broken. Before the inspection ended, it was fixed.

## Changes from the Previous Permit

The major change from the previous permit is the streamlined format of the new permit. The previous permit has been shortened first by eliminating regulatory language and replacing it with regulatory references. The second major change comes from changes in state law that have shifted the responsibility for groundwater monitoring from DTSC to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) with the oversight remaining with DTSC. Thus, DTSC has removed a major permit section that covered the groundwater monitoring requirements and replaced it with a reference to the RWQCB's waste discharge requirements. Lastly, DTSC has removed outdated conditions to update the permit.

## Permit Renewal Process

The proposed permit would have a duration of ten years. Title 22, Section 66271.7 of the California Code of Regulations requires that the facility obtain

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a renewal of their permit to continue operations. DTSC examines an application for a permit renewal through four main steps:

- 1) DTSC reviews the permit renewal application for completeness. If necessary, DTSC issues a Notice of Deficiency requiring additional information or changes to the existing information in the application. For Kettleman, DTSC has not issued any notices of deficiency.
- 2) DTSC prepares a draft permit renewal or permit denial based on whether the facility's application meets the regulatory standards.
- 3) DTSC solicits and receives comments from the public during a formal public comment period of at least 45 days. DTSC holds a public meeting and a public hearing, if requested, or if DTSC thinks there is significant public interest.
- 4) After considering and responding to all comments, DTSC makes a decision to issue, issue with changes, or deny the permit.

## California Environmental Quality Act

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC is responsible for reviewing the potential health and environmental risks from the Proposed Permit Renewal. DTSC has proposed to adopt a CEQA Statement of Findings based on the results from the Kings County Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, December 1997, the Kings County Environmental Impact Report (EIR), October 1985, and the DTSC Subsequent EIR, July 1987. The Statement of Findings concludes that since the Permit Renewal has no major changes in operations, there would be no change to the environmental impacts identified in the previously accepted CEQA decisions.

## Public Involvement

DTSC will hold a public meeting on October 9, 2001 at 7 P.M. to present information about the Proposed Permit Renewal and the changes to opera-

tions at Kettleman. DTSC staff will also be available to answer questions that members of the public may want to ask at that time. DTSC will hold the public meeting at the Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria on General Petroleum Avenue in Kettleman City. At the same place, on October 25, 2001 at 7 P.M., DTSC will hold a public hearing to hear any public comments on the Proposed Permit Renewal.

From September 25 to November 8, 2001, members of the public may send written comments to DTSC on the Proposed Permit Renewal or CEQA proposed decision. DTSC will consider all comments and respond in writing to all those who comment and to any one who request a copy. Written comments should be sent to:

William Veile  
Project Manager, DTSC  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento CA 95826.

Comments should be postmarked by November 8, 2001.

## For Further Information

For information about this proposed permit renewal, please contact either:

William Veile Project Manager BVeile@dtsc.ca.gov (916) 255-3605	Nathan Schumacher Public Participation NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov (916) 255-3650
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The Media Contact : Ron Baker at (916) 324-3142.

Also, you may review the Proposed Permit Renewal the Proposed CEQA document and other documents at the established information repositories:

Avenal Public Library 501 King Street Avenal, California 93204 (559) 386-5741	Hanford Public Library 401 North Douty Hanford, California 93230 (559) 582-0261
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Kettleman City Library  
106 Becky Pease Street  
Kettleman City, California 93239  
(559) 386-9804

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If your name is on the mailing label , you are on the mailing list for Kettleman. If not, please fill out the information below and mail it to Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping people informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and if requested, may be subject to release.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Chemical Waste Management, Kettleman Hills Facility by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650.

**The Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accomodation for the public meeting or hearing is needed, please call Nathan Schumacher at 916-255-3650 by October 2, 2001.**