

Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, September 2005

Update on Vinyl Chloride and Proposition 65 Warning Notices

On October 18, 2004, BKK Corporation (BKK), the owner and operator of the BKK Landfills, notified the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency that BKK did not have sufficient funds to continue operating and maintaining the closed Class I (hazardous) landfill and leachate treatment plant beyond November 17, 2004. On November 18, 2004, DTSC initiated an emergency response action to assure that essential systems at the facility would continue to operate. The BKK facility is located at 2210 South Azusa Avenue in the City of West Covina.

On December 21, 2004, March 21, 2005, June 21, 2005, and September 21, 2005, BKK issued Proposition 65 warnings to certain residences in West Covina near the south end of the landfill. The letters informed the residents that the 24-hour average concentration of vinyl chloride in the vicinity of their homes during the preceding year exceeded 0.05 parts per billion (ppb). BKK sends Proposition 65 notices to residences based on a calculation of average vinyl chloride concentrations. The calculated average determines the number of houses that receive notices.

Under Proposition 65, a business is required to give a clear and reasonable warning to anyone who may be exposed to a listed chemical above a specified level. The Proposition 65 level of 0.05 ppb for vinyl chloride is essentially an early warning system designed to let people know that a problem may exist that needs attention. This level indicates that a person who is exposed to 0.05 ppb vinyl chloride in the air over a lifetime of 70 years may have a one in one-hundred-thousand (1/100,000) chance of developing cancer.

The number of residences in West Covina receiving Proposition 65 notices increased from 18 in June 2005 to 44 in September 2005. This increase is due to unusual elevated readings for vinyl chloride that occurred on June 7, August 2 and 23, and September 7, 2005. The higher readings on four days increased the 24-hour average concentration, thereby increasing the number of notices sent by BKK.

BKK's estimates of vinyl chloride concentrations at affected residential properties are based on sampling results obtained from twelve air monitoring stations identified on the attached map. At the "Nogales End Station" (Station 3) vinyl chloride levels during the past 12 months have ranged from not detected to a high of 0.645 ppb on June 7, 2005. At the "Amar at Nogales Station" (Station 11), vinyl chloride levels ranged from not detected, to a high of 0.2090 ppb on June 7, 2005.



In most cases, the highest readings for vinyl chloride at the Nogales End correspond to unusual events at the site. The high readings obtained on June 7, 2005 were due to a power failure that temporarily shut down the upper flare station and a booster blower at the Nogales End. The high result recorded on August 2 may have been related to excavation proceeding at that time just above the Nogales End Station. The elevated reading on September 7 was due to a temporary loss of power that occurred when a contractor performing work on the Class III portion of the landfill accidentally broke a 12-inch gas collection header line. The average concentration of vinyl chloride over the past 12 months is well below the 0.05 ppb warning level at all stations except the Nogales End Station where the average time-weighted concentration over the past 12 months has been 0.1262 ppb. These levels do not pose an immediate health threat to the residents in the area.

DTSC's contractor is continuing work to reduce the emissions. Examples are:

- Gas collection wells have been rehabilitated;
- Gas extraction from the Class I landfill has been increased;
- Vegetation on the Class I landfill cap has been cleared to help the landfill cap irrigation system minimize drying and cracking of the Class I landfill cap;
- Portions of the landfill cap from which gas may be escaping are being identified and repaired;
- Repairs on the South Haul Road storm drain system have started and should be completed by the end of October;
- A new gas extraction line was installed on the South Haul Road on September 9 and is now operational;
- A new large capacity blower to increase vacuum on perimeter gas collection wells will be installed in the near future to help reduce gas emissions; and
- Repairs to the upper and lower flare stations will begin in October.

Additional Information

Additional information about vinyl chloride, including a summary of all analytical results for the past year, and DTSC's activities at the BKK facility can be found at DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html>.

DTSC will keep you updated on the status of this project. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the information in this fact sheet or any questions regarding DTSC's activities at the BKK Facility, please contact one of the following DTSC personnel:

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You may also call our toll free number for BKK at (866) 284-0721 and leave us a voicemail message.

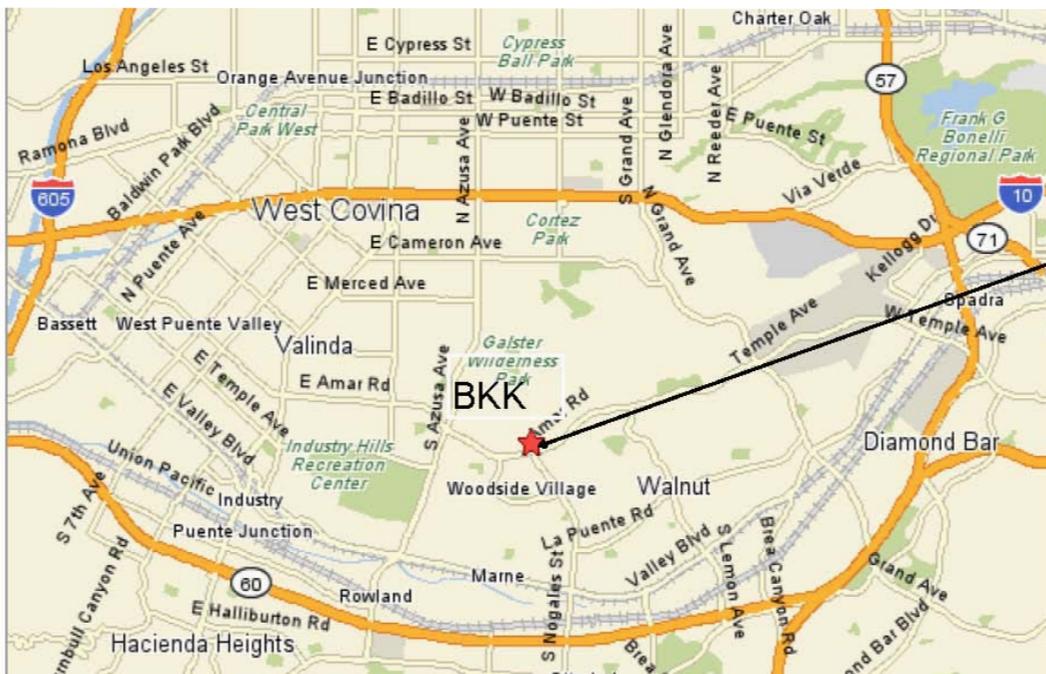
Information Repositories

Documents regarding the BKK Facility can be reviewed at the following locations:

West Covina Public Library
 1601 West Covina Parkway
 West Covina, California 91790

Walnut Public Library
 21155 La Puente Road
 Walnut, California 91789

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 1011 North Grandview Avenue
 Glendale, California 91201



Area of homes receiving Prop 65 Warning Notices

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive information about BKK Landfills, please complete this coupon and return it to: Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Comment: _____

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.

BKK Landfills Aerial View of the Air Monitoring Stations

Air Monitoring Stations

ID LOCATION

- 1 Microwave Tower
- 2 Azusa Spillway
- 3 Nogales Street End
- 6 Lynn Court
- 7 Walnut Village
- 8 Miranda Fence
- 9 Melissa @ Marcella
- 10 Marlena
- 11 Amar and Nogales
- 12 Lorraine Cul de Sac
- 13 Walnut East Fence
- 14 E. Miranda @ E. Magdalena



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 Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. 195 Mission College, Suite A75 Diamond, California 94520 (925) 838-0750	CLIENT:	CA DTSC	DESIGNED BY:	R. Wong	BKK LANDFILL AMBIENT AIR SAMPLING LOCATIONS								
	LOCATION:	WEST COVINA, CA	DRAWN BY:	B. Marshall									
			CHECKED BY:	J. Martin	DWG PROJECT NO.	24-128	REVISION NO.	1	SHEET	1	OF	1	PAGE NO.