

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## Proposed Post-Closure Permit Renewal for Chevron Richmond Landfarms 1-5

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the state regulatory agency responsible for protecting people from hazardous waste. DTSC invites you to review and comment on the draft Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit Renewal (Permit) for the Chevron Landfarms 1-5 (Landfarms) which are part of the Chevron USA Inc. Richmond Refinery, at 841 Chevron Way, Richmond, Contra Costa County, California 94801. DTSC will be making a decision about renewing the post-closure permit for the Landfarms and wants you to comment on our proposed decision.

Between the mid-1970s and 1987 Chevron used the Landfarms to hold oily waste left over from oil processing. In 2000, these areas were closed and Chevron covered the Landfarms with soil and plants to prevent water infiltration and promote bioremediation of the oily waste. Chevron must take care of the soil and plants, test to see if bioremediation is working, and monitor for any leakage. The Post-Closure Permit was originally issued March 7, 2003, and established the requirements for the Monitoring Programs. Chevron has submitted the required Application to renew the Post-Closure Permit. DTSC's Office of Permitting – Sacramento is processing the permit application and has prepared the draft Post-Closure Permit. If approved, the Permit renewal will continue the monitoring and reporting requirements. **This Post-closure Permit is only for the closed Landfarms and not for the operation of other hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities at Chevron.**

A public comment period is being held to receive comments on the Draft Permit.

This Community Update Will Inform You About:

- Chevron Landfarms 1 - 5 Area History and Background
- Post-Closure Permit Renewal Process
- Draft Post-Closure Permit Renewal and Decision
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps

### Public Comment Period



**August 1 to September 20, 2016**

Public comments must be postmarked or emailed by **September 20, 2016**, and sent to: **Lung-Yin Tai**, DTSC Office of Permitting, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 255-3615  
[Lung-yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Lung-yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov)

#### **PUBLIC MEETING:**

**August 31 at 6:30 P.M.**

**Richmond Memorial Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, California 94804**

This meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and learn more about the Post-Closure Permit.

For information about public participation, please contact: Veronica Lopez-Villaseñor, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (916) 255-3651 or 1(866) 495-5651  
[Veronica.Lopez-Villasenor@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Veronica.Lopez-Villasenor@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Facility Description and History**

The Chevron Richmond Refinery (Facility) is a 2,900-acre petroleum refinery in Richmond, California. The facility has two permits – a hazardous waste facility permit and a post-closure permit.

The Landfarms are inside the Chevron Facility and cover about 29 acres of Refinery property. They are more than 1,900 feet from the (eastern) property boundary. The Refinery is bordered to the south by Interstate 580 (I-580), to the east by the Richmond Parkway, and to the west and north by San Pablo Bay. Access to the Landfarms is through secured Gates 31 and 91.

Chevron operated Landfarms 1-5 from the mid - 1970s to 1987. Landfarming was conducted to promote biodegradation of oily wastes from petroleum processing. Landfarms 1 - 4 were built over existing waste areas and Landfarm 5 was built over an existing landfill. Before starting landfarming operations, 10 to 25 feet of fill dirt was placed at each of the landfarms. The fill material came from nearby pond and channel dredging and from soil from the San Pablo Tank Farm construction activities. During landfarming, wastes were applied to the surface of the Landfarms and tilled into the top 6 to 12 inches of fill. The main wastes were oil/water separator sludge, leaded and non-leaded tank bottoms, and oil/water mixtures. The landfarms have not received waste since 1987.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) notified Chevron on February 10, 1987, that the Landfarms did not qualify for a hazardous waste permit and were ordered to be closed.

On March 31, 1988, Chevron submitted a Post-Closure Plan for the Landfarms to DTSC. A 1992 report showed that soils beneath the Landfarms and the groundwater in its vicinity were contaminated by volatile organic compounds (including benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, xylene), semi-volatile organic compounds (including fluorene, phenanthrene, 1-methyl naphthalene, 2- methyl naphthalene), total volatile hydrocarbon as gasoline

(IVH-gasoline), total extractable hydrocarbon as diesel (TEH-diesel), and metals (including chromium, lead, nickel, vanadium).

Closure activities and construction of a plant cover over the Landfarms began in May 1998. The Landfarms were graded into low mounds to help drainage and improve their appearance. The soil was compacted to support the construction of the final cover while allowing for easy plant root penetration. The final grading was designed so rainfall runs off away from the Landfarms. The top 12 inches of soil is a 6-inch thick clean fill layer with a 6-inch thick nutrient-rich topsoil layer over it. This keeps water run-off from direct contact with the wastes and prevents wind erosion.

DTSC's Office of Permitting issued the Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit for the Landfarms with a beginning date of March 7, 2003, and an ending date of March 7, 2013. The Permit required Chevron to check the plant cover and the appearance of the plants. Chevron had to document what they saw and the effectiveness of the ground cover in Status Reports to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and DTSC. After 16 years the grasses have stabilized the cover from wind and water erosion and the trees are well-established.

### **Enforcement History**

DTSC has the authority to conduct inspections, sampling activities, inspect and copy documents, and take photographs at sites or establishments where hazardous wastes are stored, handled, processed, treated, or disposed.

DTSC usually conducts inspections of the Landfarms as part of the inspection of Chevron's other hazardous waste permits. DTSC completed inspections in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014.

DTSC inspected Chevron's groundwater monitoring program in April 2014. DTSC cited Chevron for four violations. Chevron has complied with the corrective

actions required for these violations.

### **Post-Closure Permit Renewal Process**

California law requires that any owner or operator of a surface impoundment, landfill, and land treatment unit, or waste pile that received hazardous waste after July 26, 1982, or that certified closure after January 26, 1983, such as Chevron, should have a permit. This permit is for a 10 year period and an application must be submitted for renewal to DTSC's Office of Permitting. Once an application is received, DTSC conducts a review of the application. When the review is completed, DTSC proposes a permit determination and prepares a draft hazardous waste facility post-closure permit (as in this case), or proposes a permit denial. DTSC then issues a public notice requesting comment from the public. Comments made by the public, applicant, and other agencies are considered in making the final permit determination.

### **Draft Post-Closure Permit Renewal Decision**

Conditions of the Permit require Chevron to continue all work (such as inspecting and maintaining plant and soil covers) necessary to help bioremediation and keep contaminants in the treatment zone. Chevron shall maintain a system capable of preventing flooding onto the treatment area from at least a 24-hour, 25-year storm. Chevron must also maintain and protect the Groundwater Protection System, and monitor the concentration of contaminants in the Landfarm's groundwater.

Chevron shall also document and report observations and the resulting effectiveness in semi-annual Landfarms Status Reports to RWQCB and DTSC.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

You are also invited to comment on the **Notice of Exemption** prepared by DTSC, as required by CEQA. These documents concluded that facility operations authorized under the proposed Permit would result in

less-than-significant effects on human health and the environment.

### **Opportunities for Public Involvement**

DTSC encourages the public to become involved in the Landfarms permit decision process. The public comment period gives the opportunity submit your comments to DTSC. The public comment period begins on **August 1, 2016 and ends on September 20, 2016**. All public comments must be postmarked or emailed by **September 20, 2016**, and sent to:

**Lung-Yin Tai, Project Manager,**  
**DTSC's Office of Permitting – Sacramento**  
**8800 Cal Center Drive,**  
**Sacramento, CA 95826**  
[Lung-yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Lung-yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov)  
**(916) 255-3615**

DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments received. A response to comments document will be available to all who submit public comments and to those who request a copy. DTSC will notify the applicant of the final Permit decision as well as those who submit comments or request notice. This notice will include procedures for appealing the Permit decision.

### **Public Meeting**

A public meeting will be held to provide an opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and learn more about the Post-Closure Permit. The Public Meeting will be held

**August 31 at 6:30 P.M. at:**

**Richmond Memorial**  
**Convention Center, 403 Civic**  
**Center Plaza, Richmond,**  
**California 94804**

## For More Information:

The draft Post-Closure Permit, Statement of Basis, and other documents are available for public review locally at **Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza Richmond, California 94804, (510) 620-6561; Call for hours**

## Administrative Record:

The administrative record may be viewed by appointment **Monday - Friday** between **9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.** at: **DTSC Sacramento Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826**

All data submitted by the applicant is part of the administrative record.

**Information about the Site is online** at DTSC's EnviroStor website: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/). Under "Tools", Click on "SITE/FACILITY SEARCH." Enter "CAD009114919" in the "SITE CODE, ENVIROSTOR ID #, EPA ID #, HWIS ID CODE" field, click "Get Report," click on "[REPORT]" link next to "CHEVRON USA INC RICHMOND REFINERY" with "Haz Waste – RCRA" under the "PROGRAM TYPE".

## DTSC Contact Information

If you have questions or wish to discuss the project:

Lung-Yin Tai, Project Manager, (916) 255-3615, [Lung-Yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Lung-Yin.Tai@dtsc.ca.gov)

For Public Participation details: Veronica Lopez-Villasenor Public Participation Specialist, (916) 255-3651, toll free (866) 495-5651, [Veronica.Lopez-Villasenor@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Veronica.Lopez-Villasenor@dtsc.ca.gov)

Media please contact: Russ Edmondson Public Information Officer, (916) 323-3372 [Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Chevron Landfarms 1*



*Chevron Landfarms 2-5*

