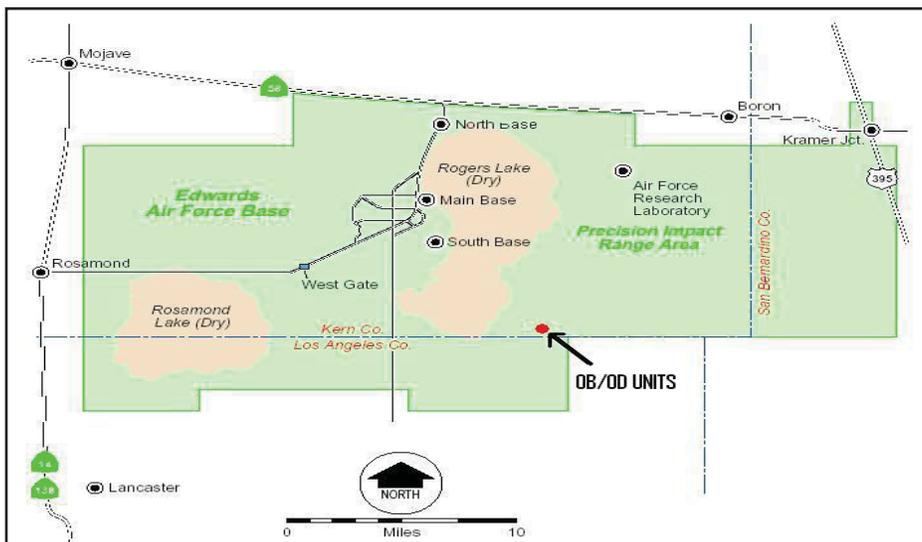


COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

PROPOSED HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATION FOR EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public to review and comment on a proposed Class 3 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification (Modification) that would add hazardous waste treatment units at Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards). Edwards currently has a permit for storage of hazardous waste in containers. In addition, Edwards currently treats reactive hazardous wastes through Open Burning and Open Detonation (OB/OD) under the authority of a Stipulation and Order, pending DTSC's decision on the Modification request. If the Modification is granted, it would allow Edwards to continue to treat reactive hazardous wastes under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit in place of the Stipulation and Order. These reactive hazardous wastes include explosives, propellants, outdated munitions, and laboratory waste contaminated with energetic materials.

DTSC is also announcing the availability of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review and comment. The draft EIR discusses the environmental impacts associated with treatment by OB/OD. We encourage you to review the draft EIR and the Modification documents, which can be found at the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

Public Comment Period



**August 13, 2013 -
October 14, 2013**

DTSC will accept public comments on a proposed Class 3 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification for Edwards Air Force Base during the 60-day public comment period from August 13, 2013 - October 14, 2013. All comments must be received by October 14, 2013. Send all comments to:

Sam Coe, Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3587
Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov

A public hearing will be held on September 17, 2013 at 6 pm, to receive public comments for the proposed Modification and draft EIR at the following location:

Eastside Elementary School
6742 E Avenue H
Lancaster, California 93535



SITE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Edwards is located in the Western Mojave Desert approximately 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The base occupies approximately 301,000 acres in the northeastern portion of Los Angeles County, the southeastern portion of Kern County, and a portion of western San Bernardino County. The OB/OD units, also known as the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Range, are located in the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA) in the southeastern portion of the base in Kern County, approximately 2000 feet north of the Los Angeles County border (See Map).

If approved, the Class 3 Permit Modification would allow Edwards to continue to treat reactive hazardous waste by OB/OD, to consolidate these treatment activities to the existing OB/OD units, and to expand operations by treating more waste than currently authorized. The types of waste treated include various propellants, unserviceable munitions and ordnance containing pyrotechnics, explosives, munitions casings, containers, and other materials contaminated with explosives. The capability for onsite treatment of reactive hazardous waste generated by Edwards' Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation activities is critical to the Edwards AFB mission, since the unstable nature of the hazardous waste makes transport to other installations unsafe.

Currently, Edwards is authorized by DTSC to operate the treatment units from a January 19, 1993 Stipulation and Order. The authorization allows for operation of the OB/OD units until DTSC makes a hazardous waste facility permit determination.

OB/OD events are anticipated to occur 1 to 2 times per month and are anticipated to be short in duration. Under the permit conditions, events would not be allowed if there are any sand, dust, rain, or snow storms present, or if electrical storms are within 5.75 miles of the treatment units. Additionally, for OB events to occur, the prevailing wind may not exceed 15 mph.

Approval of the Permit Modification request will also allow Edwards to significantly increase the annual quantities they are able to treat. Currently, Edwards is allowed to treat 5,930 pounds of energetic waste annually. If approved, the modified permit will allow them to treat up to 150,000 pounds annually depending on the type of waste.

HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

A Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was conducted to evaluate the potential human health risks associated with the OB and OD treatment events. The HRA concluded that because there are limits on the types and amounts of hazardous wastes that are to be treated by OB/OD, the cancer risk associated with the OB/OD treatments for anyone residing or working within or outside of the facility boundaries will not exceed one in a million. In addition, OB/OD treatments will have a hazard index equal to, or below, 1.0. This means that residents and non-military workers will be safe from immediate and long term non-cancer related adverse health effects from the OB/OD treatments.

WHY A PERMIT IS NECESSARY

California law requires hazardous waste storage and treatment activities, such as those conducted by Edwards, to be performed in accordance with permits issued by DTSC in accordance with the requirements specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5 and California Health and Safety Code (H&SC). Permits are developed after DTSC's detailed technical review of the facility's permit application and are intended to ensure that facilities operate in a manner that protects human health and the environment. DTSC has determined the permit application submitted by Edwards, complies with all applicable regulatory standards and requirements.



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CEQA is a state law that requires the lead agency of a project to consider and disclose the environmental effects of the proposed project before approving or denying it. DTSC is the lead agency for completing the CEQA process. The process includes a review by DTSC to determine which environmental resources may be affected if the Permit Modification is approved. These environmental resources include air quality, animal life, plant life, and geology and soils. DTSC has conducted the CEQA review, and documented the findings in the draft EIR. The draft EIR also discusses the risks to public health and the potential impact that noise and vibration from OB/OD activities could have on the environment. The draft EIR finds that the impacts the proposed Permit Modification would have on air quality, animal and plant life, geology and soils, and public health are less than significant.

NEXT STEPS

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 60-day public comment period before making a final decision to approve, modify or deny the Modification. If comments are received from the community on the Modification, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" at the completion of the public comment period and send a copy to anyone who submitted comments. Additionally, a copy of the "Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repositories

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Permit Modification request application, draft EIR and other related project documents can be viewed at:

Lancaster Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, California 93534
(661) 948-5029; Call for hours

Edwards AFB Library
Main 5 W. Yeager Boulevard
Building #2665
Edwards AFB, California 93524
(661) 2752665; Call for hours

DTSC - Sacramento Regional Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758; Call for an appointment
or DTSC Envirostor website:
<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>.

DTSC CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the project.

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