



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of the  
Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California

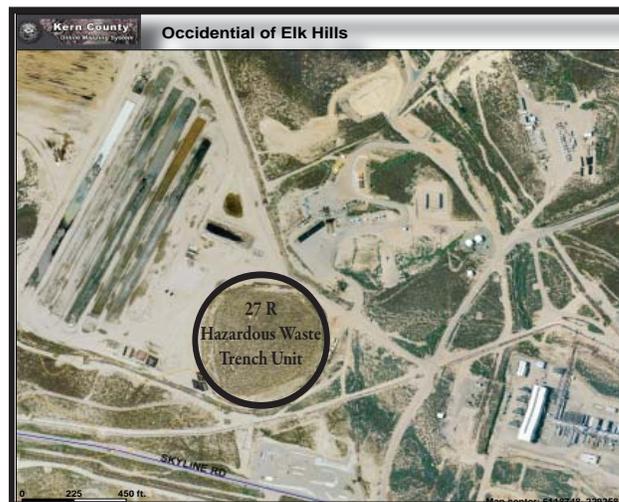


California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2008

## Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. Proposes Renewal of Post-Closure Permit

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the proposed Post-Closure Permit Renewal (Permit) for Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. (OEHI), 27R Hazardous Waste Trench (27R Unit) located at 28590 Highway 119 in Tupman. OEHI oversees oil and gas production throughout most of the Elk Hills Oil Field. Between 1975 and 1985, the 27R Unit was used to dispose of oil field wastes, primarily tank bottoms and neutralized acids.



The current Post-Closure Permit for 27R Unit was issued on December 31, 1997. 27R Unit is located in a portion of the Elk Hills Oil Field formerly referred to as the Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 1. 27R Unit consisted of five adjacent surface impoundments or trenches, which made up one waste management unit that covered 4.5 acres and held tank bottoms and neutralized acids. If the proposed Permit is approved, OEHI will be allowed to continue to maintain the closure cover for 27R Unit, continue to conduct environmental monitoring, and maintenance of financial mechanism to fund the Post-Closure activities. There are no physical changes proposed in the Permit.

In addition to the draft Permit, DTSC also proposes to issue a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which is available for review.

**Please note:** A glossary to define bolded technical terms has been included on page 4 of this fact sheet.)

### Public Comment Period

The 45-day public comment period for the proposed Permit begins on **April 11** and ends on **May 26, 2008**. Copies of the draft Permit, CEQA Notice of Exemption and supporting documents can be viewed at the information repositories listed on page 2 in this fact sheet. Written and e-mailed comments must be postmarked by **5 pm, May 26, 2008**, and sent to:

Peter Bailey, DTSC Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

Please e-mail comments to: [Pbailey@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Pbailey@dtsc.ca.gov)

A public meeting or hearing is not scheduled for this project; however, if you feel one is warranted you can request a meeting or hearing by contacting Ms. Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, toll-free at 866-495-5651, 916-255-3651 or by e-mail to [Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov). In your request please indicate the reason(s) for the request and DTSC will evaluate if a meeting is warranted.



## Why a Permit is Necessary

DTSC regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in California. A permit enables DTSC to effectively regulate the hazardous waste management activities at facilities. Permits are developed after DTSC's detailed technical review and are intended to ensure that the facility operates in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

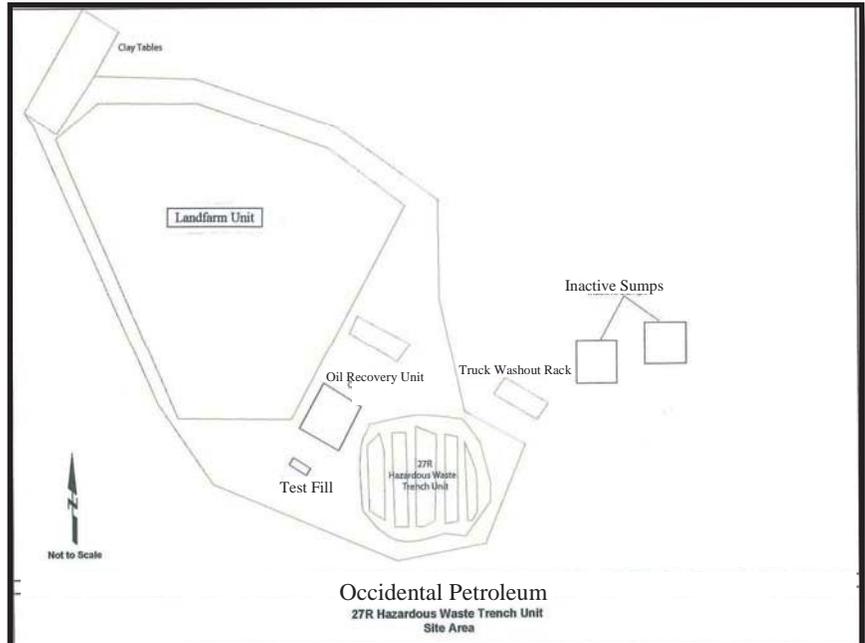
## Facility History and Description

The 4.5 acre Facility consists of a closed-covered Hazardous Waste Trench Unit (Waste Management Unit). Operation of the 27R Waste Disposal Facility began in 1975 and was used to dispose of oil field wastes, primarily tank bottoms and neutralized acids. In 1980, the Department of Energy (DOE), the owner at the time applied for a hazardous waste permit to dispose of tank bottoms and acids. The DOE was issued an interim status document by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to allow continuous disposal of wastes. The former trenches received tank bottoms and neutralized acids associated with oil and gas production and storage between 1975 and 1985.

In September 1993, DTSC approved the first Post-Closure Permit for the facility. In December 1997 the Post Closure Permit was updated and reissued. In 1998 the DOE sold their interest in the Elk Hills Oil Field to OEHI including the 27R Unit. Under the conditions of the Post-Closure Permit, state and federal regulations require that a Post-Closure Plan for a 30-year period be developed and implemented by the facility.

## California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption

DTSC evaluated any possible environmental impacts associated with the proposed activities of OEHI, as required by the CEQA. DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption which states that the Hazardous Waste Facility would not have significant impacts to human health and the environment. The findings are available for review, along with other supporting documents in the information repositories.



## Enforcement History

DTSC inspects OEHI on a regular basis to ensure they are in compliance with California laws, regulations, and the permit conditions. No violations were found during inspections over the past five years.

Inspection reports are available for review at DTSC's regional office located at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

## You can Participate in our Permitting Decisions

The proposed Permit Renewal, Notice of Exemption, and other site-related documents are available for public review at the information repositories listed below. The entire administrative record is available in the Sacramento DTSC Regional office.

### Buttonwillow Branch

116 Buttonwillow Drive  
Buttonwillow, California 93206  
(661) 764-5337

#### Hours:

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 am – 6 pm  
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: Closed

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

Sacramento Regional Records Room  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Phone: (916) 255-3758  
(Please call for an appointment)



## Glossary

**Hazardous Waste:** toxic, corrosive, reactive, or ignitable materials that can negatively affect human health or damage the environment. They can be liquid, solid, or sludge, and include heavy metals, organic solvents, reactive compounds and corrosive materials. They are defined and regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

**Post-Closure:** once an owner or operator ceases to operate a land disposal facility, the facility must close in accordance with an approved closure plan and commence post-closure care for 30 years, unless modified by the Department. Landfills generally close as a disposal facility (i.e., wastes remain in the ground after closure), whereas waste piles and surface impoundments may attempt to close by removing all waste and waste residuals. If unsuccessful, they too must close as a landfill and conduct post-closure care. Waste cannot be removed or decontaminated during closure.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA):** is a Federal statute which regulates facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste.

### Would you like to be added or removed from the Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. Mailing list?

If you would like to be added or removed from the mailing list for the Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. Facility, please complete the information below and return to Ms. Kim Rhodes, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826. You can e-mail your request to be added or removed from the mailing list to [Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov).

- Please remove my name from the mailing list
- Please add my name to the mailing list

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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