

**Fact Sheet
May 2004**

**KW PLASTICS
HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING
FACILITY
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PERMIT RENEWAL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



Overview

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received a request from KW Plastics of California for the renewal of its Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit for its Bakersfield, California, hazardous waste recycling facility (Facility). If approved, the permit would allow the Facility to continue its current operation without modification. This fact sheet contains information concerning facility location, facility operations, public involvement, information repositories, DTSC contacts, and mailing list information.

Public Notice

Public Comment Period: DTSC is accepting public comments on the proposed permit renewal for the KW Plastics hazardous waste management facility. The public comment period will begin on Tuesday, May 12, 2004 and will end on Thursday, June 25, 2004. Written comments must be postmarked by June 25, 2004 and sent to:

Farshad Vakili, Professional Engineer
DTSC, Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Response to Comments: Before making a final determination, DTSC will review and respond to all comments in writing. A copy of the Response to Comments will be sent to all those submitting comments and to those who request a copy. A copy will also be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

DTSC has not scheduled a public hearing on the proposed permit renewal. However, interested parties can request a public hearing. Public hearing requests must state the reasons for the public hearing and the issues or concerns that would be aired at the public hearing. Public hearing requests must be sent to Farshad Vakili at the address above and be received by the close of the public comment period.

Facility Description and Background

KW Plastics of California operates a plastic recycling facility north of California Highway 99 on the northwest edge of the city of Bakersfield. The Facility obtained a 1994 permit from DTSC to treat polypropylene chips in tank systems because the plastic chips the facility receive and process are considered hazardous wastes.

The Facility is located in an industrial park adjacent to, and southwest of, the Kern County Meadows Field Airport. The Facility occupies a 40,000-square foot structure on 6.1 acres and specializes in recycling crushed, lead-acid battery casings.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

When DTSC issues or renews a permit, CEQA requires us to evaluate any possible effects our decision might have on the environment. There have been no changes in the Facility operations, the environment around the Facility, or in regulations pertaining to the facility since our last CEQA evaluation. DTSC has found that the project did not result in any new environmental impacts that were not analyzed or mitigated in the previous two Negative Declarations adopted for the facility, and has determined that no supplemental CEQA review is required. A copy of the Statement of Findings and the proposed Notice of Determination which documents this is located at the Information Repositories listed in this fact sheet.

Facility Operations

The operation begins when KW Plastics receives hazardous polypropylene chips generated from the crushing of used batteries from lead-acid battery recyclers. Trucks containing unwashed chips enter the property from the northeast entrance, unload at the truck lift, and leave by the same route. Each truck entering the site contains approximately 40,000 pounds of unwashed polypropylene chips. An average of five trucks per day brings unwashed chips to the facility.

The polypropylene chips are classified as hazardous wastes because of the lead residues that adhere to the chips. Upon arrival, the polypropylene chips are emptied into a stainless steel receiving hopper. The hopper is a below-ground tank and is contained within a concrete liner.

The polypropylene chips are transferred to inside the building via a stainless steel auger and a conveyor belt. The chips immediately enter a washing/separation process where the chips are washed/rinsed three times in water.

In the washing/rinsing process, the lead contaminants are transferred from the chips to the wastewater. The lead-impacted wastewater then flows to a holding tank before entering a filtration system. The wastewater from the filtration process flows to a secondary holding tank. The Facility conducts sampling and analysis of the water in the secondary holding tank. The sampling is done to determine if the wastewater is non-hazardous and can be re-used in the process.

If the wastewater is still hazardous, it is directed back to the filter press. The hazardous wastewater and debris are conveyed to a bailing system and placed in a designated hazardous waste storage area. The wastes are managed as hazardous and are transported off-site within 90 days for disposal in an approved Class I landfill.

The washed polypropylene chips are sampled to determine that they are free of lead contaminants. If lead contaminants are found, the chips are continually washed until they are free of lead contamination. Once they are free of contaminants, they are granulated into 3/8-inch particles and transferred to a drying process that includes a centrifuge and dryer equipment.

Once the granulated chips are dry, they are blown into one of ten storage silos. Subsequently, the chips are transported from the silos to one of the two extrusion process lines. The extruded pellets are restored in the silos before their end use. Most of the recycled pellets are used as feedstock for an injection molding system that manufactures various plastic products.

Current Permit

DTSC issued a Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit to KW Plastics in June of 1994. A modification to the permit was approved in June 2000 to authorize an increase in the volume of plastic chips being recycled. This permit authorizes the Facility to accept and process a maximum of 31,207 tons of plastic chips per year, with a monthly maximum of 2,600 tons. The permit also allows the Facility to wash and rinse the received polypropylene chips and recycle 36,900 gallons per day of wastewater.

Permit Renewal

The hazardous waste facility permit was issued for a period of 10 years. In December of 2003 KW Plastics submitted a permit renewal application to DTSC to extend the permit for an additional 10-year period.

Information Repositories

Copies of the permit renewal application and other related documents are available for review at the information repositories listed as follows:

Kern County Library
200 West China Grade Loop
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-0701

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Sacramento Office File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758

DTSC Contacts

If you have questions or would like additional information please contact:

Farshad Vakili, Professional Engineer
DTSC Sacramento, Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3612

Randy Sturgeon
Public Participation Specialist
DTSC Sacramento, Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3649

Members of the media please contact:

Lisa Gray
Public Information Officer
(916) 324-0936
LGray@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378. Ask them to contact Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649 regarding the permit renewal

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail it to Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Please print name and address clearly.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Comment:

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