



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Our mission is  
to protect  
California's people  
and environment  
from harmful effects  
of toxic substances  
by restoring  
contaminated  
properties,  
identifying and  
promoting safer  
ingredients in  
consumer products,  
and ensuring  
stewardship through  
enforcement,  
regulation and  
pollution  
prevention.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## DTSC proposes approval of the Kettleman Hills Facility's cleanup of PCB storage building spills

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed and recommends approval of the Chemical Waste Management Incorporated (Waste Management) clean up of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) spills near its PCB storage building at the Kettleman Hills Facility. The facility is about 3.5 miles southwest of Kettleman City.

The Kettleman Hills Facility is a part of Waste Management located on 1,600 acres with about 474 acres permitted for ongoing treatment, storage and disposal operations for hazardous and municipal solid waste. The PCB storage building is in the central portion of the facility.

In October 2010, DTSC ordered Waste Management to fully investigate and clean up PCBs found in soil outside the PCB storage building. After inspections and review, DTSC required additional sampling to confirm the removal of PCBs to meet health protective levels. DTSC has decided that the cleaned up soil outside the storage building does not pose a threat to human health and the environment. Thus, DTSC recommends approval of the Interim Measures Corrective Action Completion Report (Report).

### Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Known for their insulating and nonflammable properties, PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors and other electrical equipment. The federal government banned the manufacture of these chemicals in October 1977 because of their potential harm to human health and the environment.

As older pieces of electrical equipment containing PCBs are taken out of service, they are shipped to the Kettleman Hills Facility. At the facility, workers drain off the PCBs and store them as hazardous waste. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has permitted this portion of the facility.

### Public Comment Period September 12 to October 12, 2011

You may comment on this recommendation, please send your comments to either of these DTSC staff:

Wayne Lorentzen  
DTSC Project Manager  
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(916) 255-3883

Nathan Schumacher  
Public Participation Specialist  
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Toll free (866) 495-5651 or  
(916) 255-3650

You may review this Report at the locations listed on page 3.





During removal – November 18, 2010



After removal – December 10, 2010

### **What our approval would mean?**

If approved, DTSC will require no further cleanup work for these spills. We conducted an inspection before recommending approval of this work. If Waste Management staff spill chemicals outside this building again, DTSC would issue a separate order to clean up the released chemicals and would impose further fines and penalties.

### **California Environmental Quality Act**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA and has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the project is exempt because it consists of activities conducted to replace an existing structure and prevent the release of hazardous waste.

### **You may review the documents at these locations**

The Report and other supporting documentation are located at the following locations:

#### **Avenal Library**

501 East Kings Street  
Avenal, CA 93204  
(559) 386-5741

#### **Kettleman City Library**

106 Becky Pease Street  
Kettleman City, CA 93239  
(559) 386-9804

#### **Hanford Library**

401 North Douty Street  
Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 582-0261

All DTSC records concerning this facility are available at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Please contact Amy Ly at (916) 255-4159 to make the necessary arrangements.

### **You may review these documents on our DTSC web site**

The Order, the Report and supporting documents are also available at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public). Please type in Kettleman City as the city and click on "Get Report". Click on the "Report" for "Chemical Waste Management Corrective Action."

### **Contacts for More Information**

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If you are a member of the media, please contact:

Charlotte Fadipe

DTSC

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### **Notice for the Hearing Impaired**

TDD users may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Please ask for Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding the Kettleman Hills Facility.

**Si desea informacion en espanol,  
comuniquese con Jesus Cruz al  
(916) 255-3315 o numero gratis  
1 (866) 495-5651**