CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: Chemical Waste Management, Inc. – Kettleman Hills Facility, Class 1* Permit Modification

Project Applicant: Reyna Verdin, Chemical Waste Management, Inc.

Project Location: 35251 Old Skyline Road, Kettleman City, California 93239

County: Kings County

Project Description:
The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has approved a Class 1* Permit Modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Chemical Waste Management, Inc. – Kettleman Hills Facility, pursuant to the authority granted under the Health and Safety Code, Section 25100 et. seq., and California Code of Regulations, title 22, Section 66270.42. The modification updates the name and contact information for an emergency coordinator in the Contingency Plan, authorizes the installation of survey monuments and establishes an annual settlement monitoring program.

Background:
The Chemical Waste Management, Inc. (CWMI) – Kettleman Hills Facility (KHF) is a commercial hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility that contains several active, inactive, and closed Class I hazardous waste management units as well as Class II/III (non-hazardous) solid waste landfills. CWMI has operated the facility since 1979. KHF is located in rural western Kings County, in the Kettleman Hills, approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Kettleman City. The facility is located on an approximately 1,600-acre property in which 695 acres are permitted for management of federal and state-listed hazardous waste and municipal solid and designated wastes.

Project Activities:
The permit modification addresses two topics: (1) updates to the Contingency Plan, (2) landfill settlement monitoring. These two topics are discussed separately.

California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.50 et. seq. requires that each hazardous waste facility keep and maintain a Contingency Plan. A Contingency Plan is a document setting out an organized, planned, and coordinated course of action to be followed in case of a fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents which could threaten human health or the environment. The Contingency Plan must list the name and contact information for an emergency coordinator that will guide and direct the implementation of the Contingency Plan. The permit modification ensures that the contact information for the emergency coordinator is current.

California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.228(e)(16) requires surveying of monuments to track the vertical and horizontal stability of landfills subject to post-closure care. Survey monuments are markers placed into the soil forming the upper portion of the landfill cover. The location of the monuments is surveyed relative to fixed point to determine if the monument has moved. Minor settlement is common and expected but large settlement, especially in a short period, can indicate potential failure of the cover. The permit modification provides for the installation of 22 new monuments on a total of eight closed hazardous waste management units (HWMUs). This action will ensure that each closed HWMU at KHF contains at least one survey monument. The monuments will be installed into the surface soil and will not penetrate the liner or otherwise impact cover performance. The work is expected to take up to six days to complete. All the monuments will be located in areas where the soil was disturbed previously during cover construction. Surveying of the monuments will occur annually.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Reyna Verdin, Chemical Waste Management, Inc.
Exemption Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec. 15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec. 15269(b)(c)]
☒ Categorical Exemption: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Sec. 15301]
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Existing Facilities

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:
The modification of the Contingency Plan is an administrative action that will have no environmental impact and requires no discretionary action from DTSC. The installation of the survey monuments is a minor alteration of existing private facilities and topographical features that involve negligible or no expansion of use.

DTSC has determined that approval of the project would not result in "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse changes in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including: air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and other object of historic or aesthetic significance." As a result, DTSC finds that the project is exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

Evidence to support the above reasons is document in the project file record, available for inspection at:

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

Ryan Batty Sr. Hazardous Substances Engineer (916) 255-3644
Project Manager Name Project Manager Title Phone #

Muzhda Ferouz 9/6/18
Unit Chief Signature Date

Muzhda Ferouz Sup. Hazardous Substances Engineer I (916) 255-3883
Branch Chief Name Unit Chief Title Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

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