

**EVALUATION SURVEY
WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
62-150 GENE WELMAS DRIVE
MECCA, CALIFORNIA 92254
(CAR000157206)**

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
Enforcement and Emergency Response Program
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program
Date of Report: April 24, 2012**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report documents the evaluation survey (“survey”) conducted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) of the Western Environmental Inc. (WEI) soil treatment and recycling facility located within tribal land of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (CBMI). Western Environmental Inc. is a business name for Western Environmental, LLC, and this DTSC survey was made possible with the cooperation of both WEI and CBMI. The WEI facility currently operates under a permit issued by CBMI (September 2009) to handle or manage contaminated soils that are non-hazardous under Federal law. Because of California’s more stringent hazardous waste requirements, some of these materials fall within the definition of California hazardous waste. The purpose of DTSC’s survey is to gain a better understanding of WEI’s operation and identify areas that need to be addressed to meet California’s standards for a hazardous waste management facility of this nature.

Primary Findings

The most critical findings pertain to the physical containment of the hazardous waste and detection and monitoring of any release to the environment.

1. The existing liner, described as a single layer system without leachate detection and collection capability, does not meet California regulatory standards for detecting and preventing contamination from migrating into the subsurface.
2. The existing groundwater monitoring wells do not meet California regulatory standards for detecting and monitoring contamination that may have migrated to the uppermost aquifer.

Additional Findings

The next set of findings pertains to critical facility operations where DTSC has inadequate information, or where existing but limited information indicates need for improvement.

1. WEI's Closure Plan has insufficient information to determine if the facility meets California regulations and standard practices for hazardous waste facilities. In addition, WEI's financial assurance and closure cost estimate are considered inadequate for proper closure of the facility in the event of operator default.
2. WEI should demonstrate that the location of its facility meets location standards for a hazardous waste facility with regard to Holocene faults and the 100-year floodplain.
3. DTSC has identified the need for improvements in the following facility procedures: screening of incoming waste, tracking of California hazardous waste received, testing during treatment, testing of outgoing material, record keeping, documentation, and other aspects of facility operation that affect overall effectiveness and safeguard against potential harm to the public and the environment.

Conclusion

DTSC has determined that WEI's operations do not meet California hazardous waste requirements in a number of significant areas. WEI would need to meet these requirements in order to receive authorization from DTSC to operate a hazardous waste facility.

