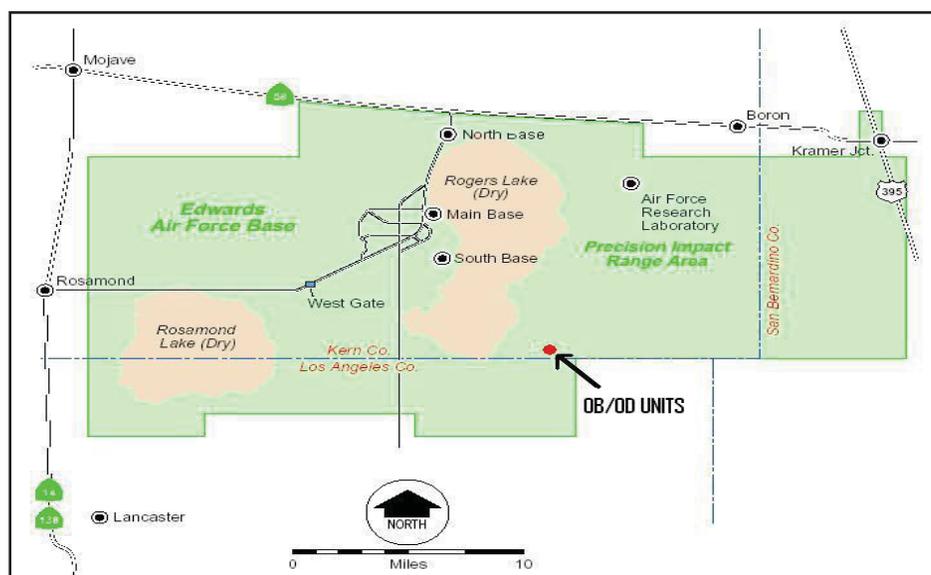


COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON PROPOSED PERMIT MODIFICATION AND DRAFT EIR FOR EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE



Public Comment Period



July 22 to September 19, 2014

DTSC will accept public comments on the proposed Class 3 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification and Draft EIR for Edwards Air Force Base during the 60-day public comment period from July 22 to September 19, 2014. All comments must be in writing and sent by September 19, 2014. Send all comments to:

Sam Coe, Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov

A public hearing will be held on **August 27, 2014** starting at **6:30 pm**, to receive public comments for the proposed Modification and draft EIR at:
Eastside Elementary School
6742 E Avenue H
Lancaster, California 93535

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issues this Community Notice to inform you of the public comment period for a proposed Class 3 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification (Modification) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) that would add hazardous waste treatment units at Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards). DTSC previously mailed a notice of a public comment period DTSC is re-noticing the draft modification for public comment, as some community members may not have received notification of the previous public comment period.

Edwards currently has a permit for storage of hazardous waste in containers. In addition, Edwards currently treats reactive hazardous wastes through Open Burning and Open Detonation (OB/OD) under the authority of a Stipulation and Order, pending DTSC's decision on the Modification request. If the



Modification is granted, it would allow Edwards to continue to treat reactive hazardous wastes under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit in place of the Stipulation and Order and increase the annual quantities they are able to treat. These reactive hazardous wastes include explosives, propellants, outdated munitions, and laboratory materials contaminated with energetic propellants.

DTSC is also again announcing the availability of the draft EIR (State Clearinghouse #2003111120) for public review and comment. The draft EIR discusses the environmental impacts associated with treatment by OB/OD. We encourage you to review the draft EIR and the Modification documents, which can be found at the information repositories listed on page 3 of this fact sheet.

Project Location and Background

Edwards is located in the Western Mojave Desert approximately 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The base occupies approximately 301,000 acres in the northeastern portion of Los Angeles County, the southeastern portion of Kern County, and a portion of western San Bernardino County. The OB/OD units are located in the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA) in the southeastern portion of the base in Kern County, approximately 2000 feet north of the Los Angeles County border (please see map on page 1). The distance to the base boundary directly south is about 4.5 miles.

If approved, the Class 3 Permit Modification would allow Edwards to continue to treat reactive hazardous waste by OB/OD, to consolidate these treatment activities to the existing OB/OD units, and to expand operations by treating more waste than currently authorized. The types of waste treated include various propellants, unserviceable munitions and ordnance, and other

laboratory materials contaminated with explosives. These waste types are hazardous due to their potential reactivity or ignitability. The capability for on-site treatment of these wastes generated by Edwards' Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation activities is critical to the Edwards AFB mission. The explosive nature of the hazardous waste makes them unsafe for transport on public roads and there are no off-site locations for treatment or disposal of this type of hazardous waste available to Edwards.

Currently, Edwards is authorized by DTSC to conduct OB/OD operations by a January 19, 1993 Stipulation and Order. The authorization allows for operation of the OB/OD units until DTSC makes a hazardous waste facility permit determination. OB/OD events are anticipated to occur 1 to 2 times per month and are anticipated to be short in duration. Under the permit conditions, events would not be allowed if there are any sand, dust, rain, or snow storms present, or if electrical storms are within 5.75 miles of the treatment units. Additionally, for OB events to occur, the prevailing wind may not exceed 15 mph.

Edwards must also follow DTSC approved monitoring and response programs for groundwater and soil. Noise levels from any detonations must be kept below levels that would likely result in complaints from off-site communities. Also, DTSC requires Edwards to continue to report on any new technologies that could be used as an alternative to OB/OD.

Approval of the Permit Modification request will allow Edwards to significantly increase the annual quantities they are able to treat. Currently, Edwards is allowed to treat 5,930 pounds of waste annually. If approved, the modified permit will allow them to treat up to 150,000 pounds annually depending on the type of waste. Edwards is on a list enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (Cortese).



Health Risk Assessment

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was conducted to evaluate the potential health risks associated with the OB and OD treatment activities, for which Edwards is requesting authorization from DTSC. The HRA concluded that because there are limits on the types and amounts of hazardous wastes that are to be treated by OB/OD, the cancer risk associated with the OB/OD treatments for anyone residing or working within or outside of the facility boundaries is well below the DTSC standard of one excess case of cancer in a population of one million people. In addition, OB/OD treatments have a non-cancer health hazard index below 1.0. This means that residents and non-military workers will be safe from immediate and long term non-cancer related adverse health effects from the OB/OD treatments.

Why A Permit is Necessary

California law requires hazardous waste storage and treatment activities, such as those conducted by Edwards, to be performed in accordance with all state permit requirements.

Permits are drafted after DTSC's detailed technical review of the facility's permit application and are intended to ensure that facilities operate in a manner that protects human health and the environment. DTSC has determined the permit application submitted by Edwards, complies with all applicable regulatory standards and requirements.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

You are also invited to comment on the draft EIR prepared by DTSC, as required by CEQA and the implementing guidelines. CEQA is a state law that

requires the lead agency of a project to consider and disclose the environmental effects of the proposed project before approving or denying it. DTSC is the lead agency for completing the CEQA process. The draft EIR includes a review by DTSC to determine if environmental resources may be affected if the Permit Modification is approved. These environmental resources include noise, air quality, animal and plant life, and groundwater and soils. The draft EIR concluded that the effects of the proposed Permit Modification would result in less-than-significant effects on human health and the environment.

Next Steps

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 60-day public comment period and certify the EIR before making a final decision to approve, modify or deny the Modification. Comments submitted during the first public comment period, held from August 13, 2013 to October 14, 2013, will be included in the record for this comment period. People who submitted those comments will still have the right to appeal any decision by DTSC on this permit modification.

If more comments are received from the community on the Modification, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" document and final EIR at the completion of the public comment period that will be available to all those who submitted public comments in writing and to those who request a copy. Additionally, a copy of the "Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repositories.

Information Repositories

The Permit Modification request application, draft Modified Permit, draft EIR and other related project documents can be viewed at:



Lancaster Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, California 93534
(661) 948-5029; Call for hours

Edwards AFB Library
5 W. Yeager Boulevard
Edwards AFB, California 93524
(661) 275-2665; Call for hours

The full administrative record is available at the
DTSC - Sacramento Regional Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758; Call for an appointment

You may also visit the DTSC Envirostor website:
<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>.

DTSC Contacts

If you have questions, please contact the following individuals:

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Sacramento, California 95826
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Nathan.Schumacher@dtsc.ca.gov

For news media inquiries only, please contact Russ Edmondson, Public Information Officer at
(916) 323-3372 or Russ.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov