

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY THE HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION FOR STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the tentative decision to deny the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Application (Application) for Stericycle Environmental Solutions (doing business as General Environmental Management (GEM)), located at 11855 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova, California 95742. GEM has operated four hazardous waste units (known as Areas A, B, C, and D) to store and treat Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and non-RCRA hazardous waste.

If the application is denied, GEM will lose authorization to operate the hazardous waste facility and will be required to close the facility.

### Public Comment Period



August 9, 2019 –  
September 24, 2019

DTSC will accept public comments for the proposed Application denial during the public comment period **beginning August 9, 2019, and ending September 24, 2019.**

All comments must be received by **September 24, 2019.** Send all written comments to:

Randy Snapp  
Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3711

[Randy.Snapp@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Randy.Snapp@dtsc.ca.gov)

**Public meeting and hearing:  
Friday, September 13, 2019  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at Rancho Cordova Library located at:  
9845 Folsom Boulevard in  
Sacramento, California 95827**

**At the Public Hearing, there will be a question and answer session regarding the project. The Public Hearing will be formally convened to only accept public comments.**



### SITE LOCATION AND OPERATION

GEM is an active hazardous waste storage and treatment facility located in Rancho Cordova. GEM's hazardous waste management units occupy about an acre in the rear portion of a larger parcel (4.5 acres). The operations include storing, packaging, re-packaging and bulking of RCRA, and non-RCRA wastes in containers. These wastes include chloroform, benzene, lead, mercury, halogenated solvents.

### WHY IS DTSC PROPOSING TO DENY THE APPLICATION?

California law requires hazardous waste storage, treatment, transfer, and disposal activities to be performed in accordance with permits issued by DTSC. Facility operations must comply with the requirements specified in title 22 of division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and the Health and Safety Code. As detailed in the Statement of Basis for this tentative decision, DTSC has found that GEM's compliance history demonstrates a repeating or recurring pattern of violations and failure to comply with the applicable hazardous waste statute and regulations.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

DTSC inspects facilities on a regular basis to ensure each hazardous waste facility is following California laws, regulations and permit conditions. GEM currently operates under a hazardous waste facility permit issued by DTSC effective on April 25, 2007. The existing permit expired on April 25, 2017, but GEM is authorized to operate under the existing permit until DTSC decides on the permit application, in accordance with the requirements of Section 66270.51 of title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. The permit renewal application was submitted on October 24, 2016.

Between 2007 and 2018, DTSC inspected GEM on numerous occasions, and observed many violations, as listed on the next page:

March 2009	(7) Class 1 violations
March 2011	(1) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
August 2011	(6) Class 1 violations
March 2013	(3) Class 1, (1) Class 2 violations
April 2013	(1) Class 1 violation
March 2014	(2) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
May 2015	(7) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
May 2016	(12) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
June 2017	(3) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
October 2017	(7) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations
June 2018	(10) Class 1, (2) Class 2 violations

### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has reviewed the proposed activities and determined that the denial

of the Application is statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(5). Therefore, DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE). The NOE is part of the administrative record for this project and a copy will be placed in the information repositories listed in the Information Repository section.

### NEXT STEPS

DTSC encourages public participation in the decision-making process and invites the public to review and comment on the proposed Application denial. DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments. A Response to Comments document will be provided to all those who submit public comments and provide a mailing address or electronic mail address. A copy of the Response to Comments will also be placed in the information repositories.

### ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The administrative record for DTSC's permit decision may be viewed by appointment Monday – Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at the DTSC



Sacramento Office (see address in the Information Repositories section). All data submitted by the applicant is part of the administrative record.

### **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

The administrative record for this decision, including the Statement of Basis and other documents related to the facility are available at the following:

Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Boulevard  
Sacramento, California 95827  
(916) 264-2920; Call for hours

DTSC Sacramento Regional File Room  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3758; Call for appointment

You can also find information at DTSC's website: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public). Click on "Site/Facility Search" under "Tools". Enter "Rancho Cordova" in the city field, click "Get Report," click on "Report" link next to "GEM" for their operating permit.

### **DTSC CONTACTS**

If you have questions or concerns regarding this proposed decision or related documents please contact:

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