



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

October, 2010 Fact Sheet

DTSC Orders the Kettleman Hills Facility to clean up PCB storage building spills

You are invited to review the DTSC order requiring that Waste Management Incorporated (Waste Management Inc.) clean up spills of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) near its PCB storage building at the Kettleman Hills Facility. The facility is about 3.5 miles southwest of Kettleman City. Please see page 2 for a map of the facility's location.

The Kettleman Hills Facility is a part of Waste Management Inc., and is a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility on 499 acres of a 1600 acre parcel.

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 electric equipment containing PCBs is 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.

What the Order Does

This order requires that Waste Management Inc. fully investigate the area surrounding the PCB building to identify the extent of the contamination and to reflect where the spills are located. After the sampling results are evaluated, the order requires Waste Management Inc. to clean up the PCBs that were found in the soil around the building. To date, sampling shows PCBs within 60 feet of the building. DTSC's order requires that Waste Management Inc. begin the cleanup immediately.

For More Information

If you have questions about this order please contact the following DTSC staff:

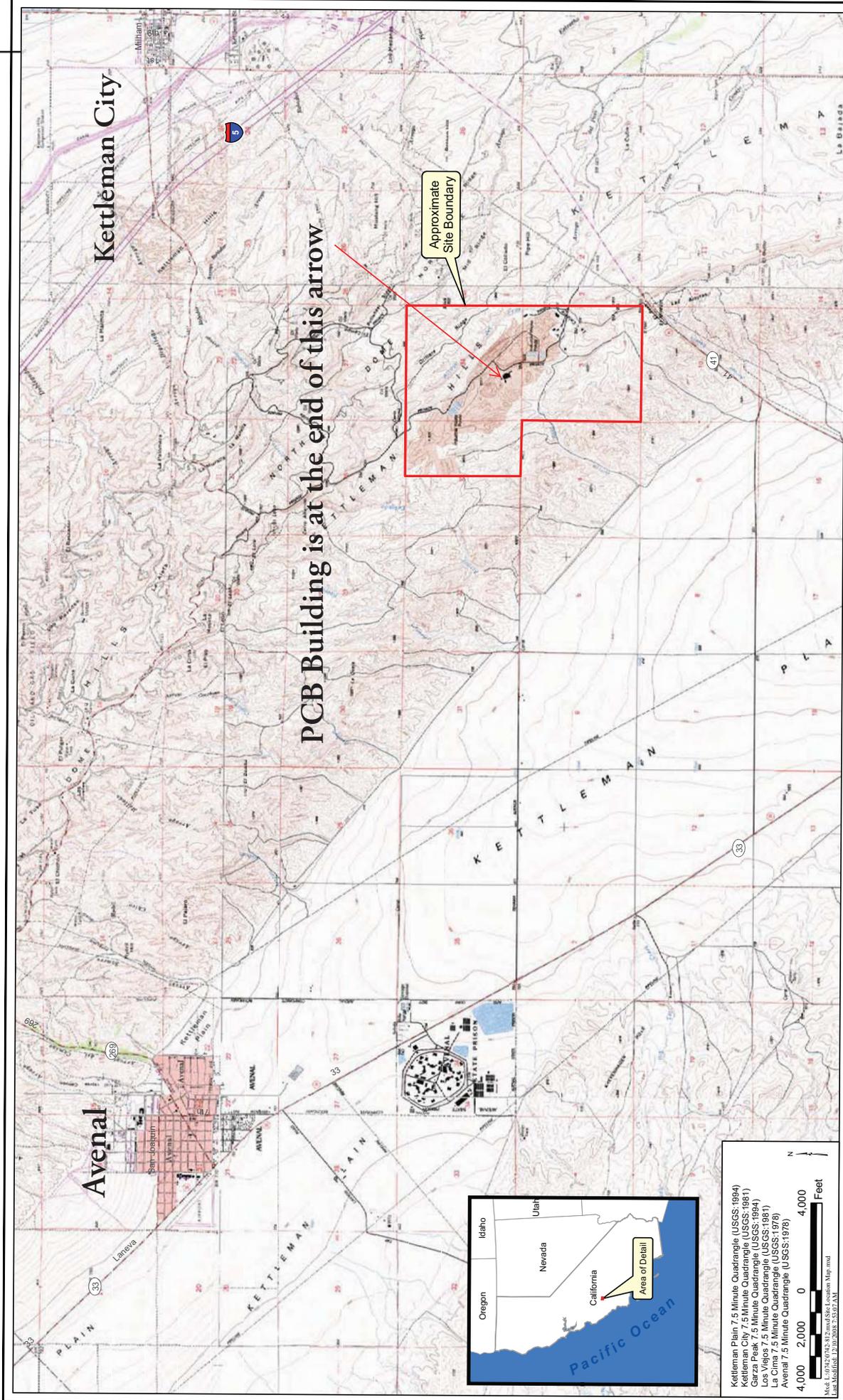
Wayne Lorentzen
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CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. - KETTLEMAN HILLS FACILITY

Site Location Map

Wenck
Engineers & Scientists
Wenck Associates, Inc. 1800 Pioneer Creek Center
Environmental Engineers Maple Plain, MN 55359-0429

MAY 2010
Figure 1

Media Contact for more Information

If you are a member of the media, contact:
Charlotte Fadipe
DTSC
CFadipe@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 323-3395

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 DTSC @ (916) 255-3650 regarding Kettleman Hills Facility.

You may review the documents at these locations

The order and other supporting documents 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 @ (916) 255-4159 to make the necessary arrangements.

You may review these documents on our DTSC website

The order and supporting documents are also available at 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".