



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

Fact Sheet, January 2009

Draft Permits Renewal Proposed for Aerojet – General Corporation Facility

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the proposed renewal of the Hazardous Waste Post-Closure Permit and the Storage and Treatment Permit for the Aerojet – General Corporation (Aerojet). Aerojet is located at Highway 50 and Aerojet Road in Rancho Cordova. Approval of these Permits will allow Aerojet to continue its storage and treatment, and post-closure maintenance operations.



For the Storage and Treatment Permit, Aerojet generates hazardous wastes that are either treated or stored at the facility. Treatment includes evaporation and pH adjustment of aqueous wastewater at an open tank treatment unit. Storage includes storage of drums and containers in the permitted container storage building.

For the Post-Closure Permit, Aerojet used two deep injection wells from 1963 to 1968 and from 1975 to 1985 for the disposal of hazardous wastewater from Aerojet's Chemical Plant 1 and Chemical Plant 2. The wastewater was injected into the ground at depths greater than 1,400 feet below ground surface. The wells were destroyed in 1994 in accordance with the approved closure plan. [Under the proposed Post-Closure Permit, Aerojet will continue to monitor the deep injection wells.]

In addition to the Draft Permits, DTSC also proposes to issue two Notices of Exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act which is available for public review only.

Public Comment Period

The 45-day public comment period for the Draft Permit begins **January 5, 2009** and ends on **February 18, 2009**. Copies of the Draft Permit, CEQA Notices of Exemptions, and supporting documents can be viewed at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet. Written and e-mailed comments must be postmarked by 5 pm on **February 18, 2009** and sent to:

Mr. Farshad Vakili, P.E., DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Please e-mail comments to: Fvakili@dtsc.ca.gov

A public meeting or hearing is not scheduled for this project; however, if you feel one is warranted you can request a meeting or hearing by contacting Ms. Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, at 916-255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov. In your request please indicate the reason(s) for the request and DTSC will evaluate if a meeting is warranted. Please send your request no later **February 4, 2009**.



Why a Permit is Necessary

DTSC regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in California. A permit enables DTSC to effectively regulate the hazardous waste management activities at facilities. Permits are developed after DTSC's detailed technical review, and are intended to ensure that the facility operates in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

Facility Description

Aerojet occupies approximately 5,900 acres in Sacramento County. Aerojet is a publicly owned corporation that specializes in missile and space propulsion for governmental and commercial uses.

Liquid propellant rocket engines and solid propellant fuel rocket motors are fabricated, assembled, tested and refurbished at the Aerojet facility. These activities include manufacture of metal parts, including casting, deep-drawing, and other methods of forming. Aerojet also performs engineering research and development at its facility.

Hazardous Waste Management Units Authorized in the Permit

Storage and Treatment Permit

Unit 1 – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) – J Evaporative Tank

Unit 1 is an evaporative storage and treatment tank which handles aqueous hazardous wastewater. The open treatment tank has a capacity of 153,178 gallons.

Unit 2 – RCRA – C Building 03006 Container Storage

Unit 2 provides container storage of liquid and solid hazardous wastes. The hazardous wastes include explosives, solid and liquid propellants, ignitable, reactive and toxic wastes. The maximum storage for this container is 45,760 gallons.



Building 03006 Container Storage

Post-Closure Permit

Unit 1 – Underground Deep Injection Wells 1 and 2

Unit 1 consists of two Underground Deep Injection Wells. Well 1 has a total depth of 1,564 feet. The production casing is 8 and 5/8 inches in diameter and extends from the ground surface to 1,400 feet. Well 2 have a total depth of 1,691 feet. The production casing is 8 and 5/8 inches in diameter and extends from ground surface to 1,684 feet. Closure of the wells was to isolate the injectate within the injection zone from the shallower fresh water. The wells were closed to isolate the injectate within the injection zone from fresh water.]To provide isolation of the injectate, three cement plugs were installed in each well. The first plug was installed in the lower three quarters of the slotted casing. The second plug was installed in the remaining slotted casing after perforating the casing at the bottom of the blank casing. The third plug was installed throughout the blank casing.

California Environmental Quality Act– Notice of Exemption

DTSC evaluated any possible environmental impacts associated with the proposed activities of Aerojet as required by the CEQA. DTSC has prepared two Notices of Exemptions which states that the continued operations of the Hazardous Waste Facility would not have any impacts to human health and the environment. The findings are available for review only, along with other supporting documents in the information repositories.

Enforcement History

DTSC inspects Aerojet on a regular basis to ensure they are in compliance with California laws, regulations, and the permit conditions. The following violations were found during inspections over the past five years. However, in the past five years, Aerojet closed more than 20 permitted hazardous waste treatment storage units due to waste minimization efforts. Due to the Aerojet's reduction of its hazardous waste operation, the majority of the violations may not be related to the permitted units.

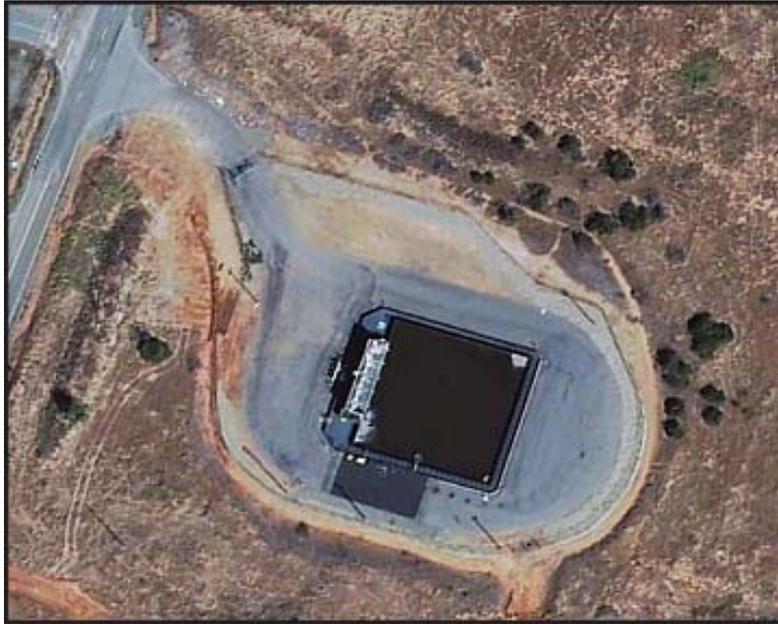
Inspection and Enforcement Background:

Aerojet has not had a violation since 2004. Prior to 2004, DTSC's conducted inspections in 2000, 2002, and 2003 of Aerojet. The inspections resulted in many alleged violations, including repeat violations regarding cracks and gaps in secondary containment, a container labeling problem, failure to have a working eyewash/shower, reducing a post-closure care cost estimate for underground injection wells without prior DTSC approval and using an incorrect inflation calculator to adjust closure and post-closure cost estimates.

In 2004, the Attorney General's Office, on behalf of DTSC, filed a complaint with Sacramento Superior Court alleging that Aerojet violated the California Hazardous Waste Law during DTSC's inspections conducted in 2000, 2002, and 2003. On March 25, 2004, Aerojet and DTSC resolved the matter through a Stipulation for Entry of Final Judgment. The DTSC Docket Number for the case is AG20020099.

Additionally, in 2004, DTSC conducted an inspection of Aerojet Fine Chemicals, a former subsidiary of GenCorp Inc., which resulted in alleged violation of unauthorized treatment of hazardous wastes by neutralization with caustic substances. The alleged violation regarding the unauthorized treatment of hazardous waste by neutralization with caustic substances was resolved by a Consent Order on December 21, 2006. Aerojet Fine Chemicals is no longer owned by or under the control of GenCorp.

Inspection reports are available for review at DTSC's regional office located at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.



Treatment and Storage in Evaporative Tank

DTSC Contacts

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have about this Draft Permit:

For questions regarding the Draft Permit or Notice of Exemption, please contact Mr. Farshad Vakili, P.E., DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-3612 or by e-mail to Fvakili@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding Public Participation, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail to Cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888- 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651 regarding the Aerojet – General Corporation projects.

Information Repository

DTSC encourages public participation in the decision-making process and invites the public to review and comment on the Draft Permit. Before making a final determination on the Draft Permit, DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments received. A Response to Comments document will be sent to all those who submitted public comments and to those who request a copy. A copy of the Response to Comments will also be placed in the information repositories listed below.

Rancho Cordova Library

9845 Folsom Boulevard
Sacramento, California 95827
Phone: (916) 264-2920
Hours: Monday – Thursday – 10 am to 8 pm
Friday – 10 am to 6 pm
Saturday – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday – Noon to 5 pm

The full administrative record is located at:

DTSC Sacramento Office

Records Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Phone: (916) 255-3758
(Please call for an appointment)

To view **electronic versions** of the Draft Permits, CEQA Notices of Exemption and other related documents, please visit DTSC's EnviroStor website: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Enter "**Rancho Cordova**" as the City Click on the link "**Report**" Aerojet-General Corporation for additional information. You may also view the documents on the DTSC website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/>.

Comment Form for Aerojet General Corporation, Draft Permit Renewal

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **February 18, 2009**. Please send this form to:

Mr. Farshad Vakili, P.E., DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

You may also email this same information to: Fvakili@dtsc.ca.gov

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Phone number (optional): _____

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

Would you like to be added or removed from the Aerojet – General Corporation Mailing list?

If you would like to be added or removed from the mailing list for the Aerojet – General Corporation project, please complete the information below and return to Ms. Kim Rhodes, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826. You can also e-mail your request to be added or removed from the mailing list by sending a message to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

Please remove my name from the mailing list

Please add my name to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.