

Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

F A C T S H E E T , September 2005

Public Comment Period on the Permit Renewal for the General Chemical West, LLC Facility

General Chemical West, LLC has applied for a renewal of their permit to store hazardous waste at their Bay Point West Facility located at 501 Nichols Road in Bay Point, California.

The proposed permit would allow General Chemical West, LLC to continue to operate its Hazardous Waste Storage Facility without any changes to the facility's existing operations.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control encourages public review and comment on the document.

Background

The General Chemical West, LLC facility is owned by the GenTek, Inc. and is located in Bay Point on the northern end of Contra Costa County next to Suisun Bay about 5 miles west of Pittsburg, California. The 26 acre General Chemical West, LLC property consists of two large lots (Lots 1 and 2) connected by a small strip of land. The General Chemical West, LLC property is zoned for Heavy Industrial use.

Lot 1 is about 15 acres and includes the chemical processing plant, warehouses, support and service buildings, and the Hazardous Waste Storage Facility which is located near the center of the southern boundary of Lot 1 (Figure-1 page 2).

Public Comment Period and Hearing Request

The public is invited to comment on the Draft Permit and California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration during the 45-day Public Comment Period which begins on Friday, September 30, 2005 and ends on Monday, November 14, 2005.

All written comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2005 and sent via mail or email to:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Mr. Dean Wright, Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
or via email at Dwright@dtsc.ca.gov

All comments will be considered before a final determination to renew the permit is made. The permit renewal, CEQA Negative Declaration and other site documents are available at the information repositories listed on the back of this fact sheet.

Interested parties can request a public hearing. Hearing requests must state the reason for the public hearing and the issue. DTSC will make the final determination if a hearing is necessary.





General Chemical Site

Lot 2 is about 10.5 acres and consists of a non-hazardous waste water treatment pond and a caustic storage tank area.

Facility Description

Since 1994 General Chemical West, LLC has been permitted to store hazardous wastes. These wastes are generated by various manufacturing processes that produce high-purity acids used by the semi-conductor chip industry. During these manufacturing processes, water is used to clean the pipes, pumps, and ancillary equipment. This water becomes contaminated with acid and metals and is piped to the Hazardous Waste Facility for proper storage before it is trucked to an offsite authorized disposal facility.

Because these wastes may be stored at the General Chemical West, LLC facility for more than 90 days a DTSC permit for storage is required. No treatment or disposal of waste is done at the General Chemical West, LLC plant.

The Hazardous Waste Storage Facility consists of two 16,400 gallon high density poly-ethylene tanks set in a concrete secondary containment structure. Neither tank is permitted to be filled beyond 15,000 gallons. The concrete secondary containment structure can hold 27,500 gallons of liquids in the event of a spill or rupture. These acid waste waters are collected in four sumps and are routed to the storage facility. The tanks are used on alternate schedules so when one is being filled, the other is emptied. Normal operations require disposal approximately 3 times a month.

Compliance History

DTSC inspects all the permitted hazardous waste units at the General Chemical West, LLC facility for compliance with state laws and regulations.

In August 1998 and December 1999, DTSC conducted inspections at the facility and found no violations.

In April 2002 DTSC found three violations.

The most recent DTSC inspection was conducted in September 2003 and found a total of seven violations. The violations were all of an administrative nature (emergency contact information list, manifest data, and items related to their closure cost financial assurance mechanism) and have been corrected by General Chemical West, LLC.

Changes in Permit Renewal Application

Included in the permit renewal application, there is no proposal for structural changes to the facility, no change in the type of waste stored, no change in the permitted storage capacities for the permitted units, and no change in the traffic associated with removing and shipping the hazardous waste to offsite authorized disposal facilities. The renewal of the permit would allow the current practice of collecting and storing the waste to continue with no changes.

Permit Renewal Process

The current hazardous waste storage permit expired on July 31, 2004. General Chemical West, LLC submitted a renewal permit application in July of 2003 which is approximately one year prior to the expiration

date of the existing permit. The proposed permit would be good for ten years.

Title 22, Section 66271.7 of the California of Regulations requires that a facility obtain a renewal of their permit to continue operations.

DTSC reviews applications for a permit renewal through four main steps:

1. DTSC reviews the permit renewal application for technical completeness. If necessary, DTSC issues A Notice of Deficiency requiring additional information or changes to the existing information in the application.
2. DTSC prepares a draft permit or permit denial based on whether the facility's application meets the regulatory standards.
3. DTSC solicits and receives comments from the public during a formal public comment period of at least 45 days.
4. After considering and responding to all comments received from the public, DTSC makes a decision to issue, issue with changes, or deny the permit.

California Environmental Quality Act

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC is responsible for reviewing the potential health and environmental risks that may be associated with re-issuing the permit. DTSC has prepared an Initial Study to evaluate the environmental impacts the project poses. DTSC has determined that there is no significant impact to the environment based on the Initial Study. DTSC has prepared a Negative Declaration to document the results and fulfill the CEQA requirements.

Public Involvement

The Department of Toxic Substances Control invites the public to review and submit comments on the proposed permit renewal and on the CEQA Negative Declaration during the 45-day comment period.

Please send your written comments to:

Mr.. Dean Wright
DTSC's Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

For More Information

If you would like more information about the site, please contact:

Mr.. Dean Wright
DTSC's Project Manager
(916)255-6628
dwright@dtsc.ca.gov

For public involvement questions, please contact:

Ms. Michelle Trotter
DTSC's Public Participation Specialist
(916)255-6441
mtrotter@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact:

Ms. Angela Blanchette
DTSC's Public Information Officer
(510)540-3732
ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Information Repository Locations

The Permit Renewal as well as site related documents can be viewed at the following locations:

Ambrose Community Center

3105 Willow Pass Road
Bay Point, California
925-458-1601

Bay Point Library

Riverview Middle School
Bay Point, California
925-458-3216

DTSC File Room

700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
510-540-3800

For More Information access DTSC's website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC'S MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:

Please print name and address clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Comment: _____

Please take me off the mailing list.

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

Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378.
Ask them to contactMichelle Trotter 916-255-6441.

Michelle A. Trotter
Public Participation Specialist
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

*Important information regarding Permit Renewal
for General Chemical West, LLC Facility.*