

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley
CA 94710

Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21108 or 21152.

General Chemical - Bay Point Works, RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage Permit

Project Title

<u>2005092111</u>	<u>Waqar Ahmad</u>	<u>(510) 540-3932 /</u>
State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to Clearinghouse)	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone/Extension

Project Location (Include County):

General Chemical - Bay Point Works Facility is located at 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg (Contra Costa)

Project Description:

DTSC has issued the renewal of a RCRA Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the General Chemical. This permit authorizes General Chemical to continue to operate a hazardous waste storage facility to 1) collect hazardous wastewaters in below-ground sumps, 2) commingle wastewaters in two above-ground storage tanks, and 3) store hazardous wastewaters in the two above-ground tanks for up to one year.

This is to advise that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Lead Agency, has approved the above described project on May 26, 2006 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of this project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final environmental document with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the public at the following location: 1) Ambrose Community Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point, California (925) 458-1601, and 2) Bay Point Library, Riverview Middle School, Bay Point, California (925) 458-3216.

//Signed By//

_____ DTSC Branch Chief Signature

5/26/06

_____ Date

Mohinder S. Sandhu
DTSC Branch Chief Name

Chief
DTSC Branch Chief Title

(510) 540-3974
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: _____

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Submitting: Draft
 Final
 Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Title: General Chemical - Bay Point Works, RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage Permit

State Clearinghouse Number: 2005092111

Contact Person: Waqar Ahmad Phone # (510) 540-3932

Project Location (Include County):

General Chemical, Bay Point Works is located at 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg (Contra Costa).

Project Description:

DTSC has issued the renewal of a RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Permit for the General Chemical Bay Point Works Facility. This permit authorizes General Chemical to continue to operate a hazardous waste storage facility to 1) collect hazardous wastewaters in below-ground sumps, 2) commingle wastewaters in two above-ground storage tanks, and 3) store hazardous wastewaters in the two above-ground tanks for up to one year.

Findings of Significant Effect on Environment:
(A copy of the Initial Study which supports this finding should be attached.)

Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are required.

//Signed By//

DTSC Branch Chief Signature

5/26/06
Date

Mohinder S. Sandhu
DTSC Branch Chief Name

Chief
DTSC Branch Chief Title

(510) 540-3974
Phone #

INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following Initial Study for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code) and implementing Guidelines (15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: General Chemical West Limited Liability Company, Bay Point Works Facility – Permit Renewal

Site Address: 501 Nichols Road

City: Pittsburg State: California Zip Code: 94565 County: Contra Costa

Contact Person: Jeff Jakonczuk, Environmental Services Director

Address: 501 Nichols Road

City: Pittsburg State: California Zip Code: 94565 Phone Number: (925) 458-7300

Project Description:

In accordance with California Health and Safety Code (HSC), section 25200, a renewal of the existing Hazardous Waste Facility Permit is to be granted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to the General Chemical West Limited Liability Company (GCW), Bay Point Works Facility in Pittsburg, California, USEPA I.D. number CAD 009142290. GCW is a wholly owned subsidiary of the General Chemical Corporation. The renewed permit will authorize the continued operation of on-site storage of hazardous liquid wastes within the hazardous waste storage unit and sumps located on the GCW property. GCW is an existing facility currently authorized under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The renewal of the permit is defined as a "project" according to the Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21065 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378. This project is subject to the environmental review process by the lead agency (DTSC) as defined by the PRC Section 21080 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15063. Consequently, this environmental review document has been prepared in accordance with these CEQA requirements.

GCW was granted a permit to operate its hazardous waste collection units (HWCUs) and hazardous waste storage unit (HWSU) on August 1, 1994; the permit expired on July 31, 2004. GCW submitted to DTSC a renewal application on July 1, 2003. The waste streams and waste volumes will remain unchanged. The renewal of the permit would impose the requirements of Chapters 14 and 20, Title 22, Division 4.5, California Code of Regulations (CCR) upon General Chemical West's operations.

If approved, the permit would authorize the following activities:

1. Collection of hazardous wastewaters in below ground sumps,
2. Commingling of wastewaters in two above ground storage tanks, and
3. Storage of hazardous waste in the two above ground tanks for up to one year.

General Chemical has directed the haulers to follow a preferred route from the General Chemical Facility to Highway 4. The preferred route is to exit the Facility and turn left onto Port Chicago Highway until Willow Pass Road. Then, turn right onto Willow Pass Road and then, turn onto Highway 4.

Project Activity:

If approved, the permit would authorize the facility to continue the collection of acidic wastewaters in below ground sumps and the storage of these hazardous wastewaters in two tanks with secondary containment for greater than 90 days but less than or equal to one year.

The Bay Point Works facility manufactures and packages several products including high-purity etchants and cleaning agents such as sulfuric, nitric, and hydrofluoric acids for the electronic component (semi-conductor chip) industry and Alum (aluminum sulfate) which is used in fire extinguisher compounds, cosmetics, drugs, municipal waste and potable water purification, and other products. The hazardous wastewaters are generated at the acid producing and packaging plants and originates from four locations. They include the Electronics grade Hydrofluoric acid (EHF) plant, the Packaging Building Drain System, the Packaging Building Drum Process, and the Batch Area. Each of these areas has its own collection sump with a dedicated pump, set within a secondary containment structure that collects the wastewater and sends it to the storage tanks via above ground double-walled piping or via underground piping that has secondary containment. The processes associated with these manufacturing and packaging areas require large volumes of water to thoroughly clean pipes, pumps, and ancillary equipment. This water becomes contaminated with acid and is collected in the sumps and is sent to the RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage Unit (HWSU) located within the main facility along the northern boundary.

The HWSU consists of two 16,400 gallon high density poly-ethylene (HDPE) tanks within a secondary, concrete containment structure. The acidic waste water is held in these tanks until taken off site via vacuum trucks for treatment by an authorized hazardous waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facility. The waste is not treated at the Bay Point Works facility but may occasionally be held in excess of 90 days before being shipped off site. The possibility of storing the waste for greater than 90 days is the only activity that requires the issuance of this permit.

Background:

As mentioned above, the General Chemical West (GCW) manufactures and packages high purity etchants and incurs liquid acidic waste during the cleaning of equipment. GCW is the operator of the sumps and the HWSU that is the subject of this initial study. GCW is responsible for the day-to-day operations such as inspection, monitoring, record keeping, reporting and contingency planning of these hazardous waste storage units.

The hazardous waste being handled is primarily water contaminated with acid due to the cleaning of the manufacturing and processing equipment at the plant. DTSC regulates the hazardous waste and detailed information on the waste can be found in Section C of the August 2005 Part B application.

DTSC proposes to renew the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) issued to the Bay Point Works facility of GCW. The Permit is based on the Part A and Part B application submitted by GCW in August 2005. The Part A application identifies all possible waste codes or waste types, the annual generation rate, and the number of storage units. A detailed description of GCW's waste characterization procedures, emergency plan, training plan and closure plan are provided in the Part B application. Table 1 lists the waste type and the sump and tank volumes. The Permit identifies each storage unit and its associated maximum permitted storage capacity.

Site Location:

The Bay Point Works Facility of GCW is located at 501 Nichols Road, Bay Point,, California at latitude 38° 0' N and longitude 121° 59' E. It lies just north of the Port Chicago Highway, adjacent to the community of Bay Point. The nearest residences in the community of Bay Point are approximately seven-tenths of a mile from GCW. The facility occupies approximately 26 acres along the south shore of Suisun Bay (see Figure 1). The facility consists of several chemical plants, warehouses, support and service buildings, and a wastewater effluent lagoon (see Figure 2). The site's legal description is as follows: a portion of Section 13, Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, also being a portion of

Plot K of the map of Rancho Las Positas, a copy of the said map was filed for record on June 16, 1873 in Lieber 95 of Deeds, page 205, Contra Costa County Record.

The GCW site and properties immediately adjacent to it are zoned heavy industrial. Honeywell owns properties on the west, north, and east sides of the GCW site that were historically used for chemical manufacturing, but are now vacant. Polypure still operates a chemical manufacturing facility to the east of the GCW site. The Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) owns land to the west of GCW and GCW property lies within the CNWS condemnation zone. The intent of the condemnation zone is to allow the United States Navy to purchase properties within the zone to minimize risks associated with ordnance handling for civilian populations outside the zone. Consequently, properties within the zone may not be sold or re-zoned by the county without the express consent of the Navy. Suisun Bay bounds the CNWS, Honeywell, and GCW properties to the north.

TABLE 1

Unit Name	Dimensions	Waste Type	Waste Volume (gallons)
Electronics Grade Hydrofluoric Acid (EHF) Collection Sump.	48" x 48" x 36"	Acidic waste water	350
Packaging Building Sump	33" x 36" x 36"	Acidic waste water	200
Packaging Building Drum Processing Sump	60" in diameter x 60" high	Acidic waste water	600
Batch Area Sump	37" x 57" x 38"	Acidic waste water	350
Hazardous Waste Storage	Two 14' diameter x 16' high tanks	Acidic waste water	16,400 capacity per tank 15,000 max allowed per tank

Agency Having Jurisdiction Over the Project/Types of Permit Required: California Environmental Protection Agency – Department of Toxic Substances Control

II) DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL ACTION BEING CONSIDERED BY DTSC

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Permit Issuance | <input type="checkbox"/> Closure Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Removal Action Workplan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permit Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permit Modification | <input type="checkbox"/> Removal Action Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

Program/ Region Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Contact Person: Waqar Ahmad

Address: 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200

City: Berkeley State: CA Zip Code: 94710 Phone Number: (510) 540-3932

III) ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The boxes checked below identify environmental resources which were found in the following ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/IMPACT ANALYSIS section found to be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact".

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Identified | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems | |

IV) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following pages provide a brief description of the physical environmental resources that exist within the area affected by the proposed project and an analysis of whether or not those resources will be potentially impacted by the proposed project. Preparation of this section follows guidance provided in DTSC's California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study Workbook (Workbook). A list of references used to support the following discussion and analysis are contained in Attachment A and are referenced within each section below.

Mitigation measures which are made a part of the project (e.g.: permit condition) or which are required under a separate Mitigation Measure Monitoring or reporting Plan which either avoid or reduce impacts to a level of insignificance are identified in the analysis within each section.

1. Aesthetics

Project activities likely to create an impact: None

Description of Environmental Setting: The site is currently used by GCW for industrial purposes. The project will allow continued usage of existing collection and storage units which have been permitted for use since 1994. The facility and those immediately adjacent are all zoned heavy industrial. Continued use of the below ground sumps (HWCUs) and the two above ground storage tanks (HWSUs) will not increase the size of the facility, volume of waste stored or type of waste stored. Thus, the visual character and quality of the existing facility will not change. Nor are substantial adverse effects or damages to scenic vistas or resources anticipated. The renewed permit will not authorize any new lighting so there will be no issues involving glare at night or during the day.

The issuance of the renewed permit for General Chemical West LLC is not expected to impact the aesthetic values in the area. The hazardous waste is stored in tanks with secondary containment towards the rear of the facility. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc.):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

2. Agricultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: None

Description of Environmental Setting: The project is located in a military/industrial use area and has been used for industrial purposes since 1905. Prior to the development of the area, the general land use was undisturbed marshland. No farming or agriculture occurs on or near the site. This project is not in an area designated as prime farmland or farmland of Statewide importance. This is an existing facility and renewing the permit will not increase the size of the permitted units, volume of waste stored, or type of waste stored. As such, this project will not result in farmland being converted to non-agricultural use. The project does not involve changes in the existing environment and won't result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses.

The issuance of the renewed permit for GCW is not expected to impact any agricultural resources in the area. All hazardous waste storage activities are conducted in a secondarily contained storage unit that is separate from the manufacturing units and towards the rear of the facility. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc.):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

3. Air Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact: None

Description of Environmental Setting: The General Chemical facility is located in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. In August 1998, The Bay Area was redesignated to non-attainment-unclassified for the 1-hour ozone standard. In April 1998, the Bay Area was redesignated to attainment for the national 8-hour monoxide standard. In June 2002, the California Air Resources Board established new annual standards for particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and PM10. The current operation does not require an air permit.

The project is exempt from air emissions standards pursuant to chapter 14, articles 27, 28, or 28.5 because waste streams are less than 500 parts per million weighted (ppmw) average of volatile organics.

The climate at the General Chemical facility is characterized by dry, warm summers and cool, moderately wet winters. Annual average temperatures range from 45 degrees in January to 75 degrees in August. Temperatures occasionally reach as high as 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and freezing temperatures are infrequent. Annual precipitation averages 14 inches with about 84 percent occurring from November through March. Mean annual precipitation in Contra Costa County can be highly variable. Prevailing winds blow from the west through the gap formed by the San Francisco Bay and Carquinez Strait and are particularly dominant during the summer months.

Air emissions from the permitted tanks and sumps will not be significant. The tanks and sumps are maintained at ambient temperature and pressure. No air emissions are associated with the waste and thus no measuring of the emission rates for the collection sumps and storage tanks is necessary. The tanks and sumps, their foundations, and secondary containment structures are all existing, so no construction activities will be necessary. The waste consists of inorganic acid waste water and thus is not volatile. No increase in the volume of waste stored in the tanks or collected in the sumps is planned, thus there will be no increase in the volume of truck traffic required to extract the tank waste for off site disposal, which is typically 3 tanker trucks per month.

The issuance of the renewed permit for GWC is not expected to impact the air quality in the area. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc.):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- C) http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/air_quality/ambient_air_quality.asp

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

4. Biological Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: None

Description of Environmental Setting: Plant Life: A biological reconnaissance was completed by CH2Mhill (the consultant to the Honeywell site) to evaluate the habitat characteristics within one mile of the Honeywell Bay Point Property which included the GCW property. Large portions of the area within one mile of the site are associated with the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) and were inaccessible. However, these areas were viewed from the nearest vantage point using binoculars. In addition, the most recent (March 1, 2004) Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Rarefind Report was obtained on May 26, 2004 for the Honker Bay quadrant to review the most up to date information on the species and habitats in and around the project site area. Based on the two reports, the area surrounding the GCW facility is predominantly grassland and saline emergent wetland. The habitat in the vicinity of the GCW site is comprised primarily of ruderal plant species including: hare barley, wild oat, sweet clover, riggut brome, black mustard, yellow star thistle, Russian thistle, and fireweed. These are introduced, exotic species that rapidly colonize disturbed substrates. The Rarefind Report indicates several endangered or species of concern in the area including the Suisun marsh ester, big tar plant, soft birds-beak, Carquinez goldenbush, Delta tule pea, Mason's lilaepsis, Delta mudwort, Antioch Dunes evening primrose, and the bearded popcorn flower.

Animal Life: The various grassland and saline wetland habitats surrounding the General Chemical West facility may potentially support a broad array of wildlife species. The DFG Rarefind Report for the Honker Bay quadrangle indicates several endangered, threatened, or species of concern in the area including the tricolored blackbird, California tiger salamander, Suisun Marsh aster, burrowing owl, salt-marsh common yellowthroat, California black rail, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, the Suisun song sparrow, San Joaquin pocket mouse, California clapper rail, California red-legged frog, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and the California lest tern. In addition, approximately 100 species of wildlife are potentially supported by the saline wetland habitats. The grassland habitats may support 190 species and the urban habitats could support 189. Some of the more common reptiles potentially associated with these vegetative communities include: western fence lizard, southern alligator lizard, and gopher snake. Species of birds known or likely to inhabit these areas include the California Quail, mourning dove, song sparrow, house finch, killdeer, and red-tailed hawk. Mammals most likely to be present include the deer mouse, California vole, California ground squirrel, red fox and coyote.

The storage tanks and collection sumps are not located in or near unique biological communities. There are no changes planned in the use and operation of the tanks and thus disturbances to the existing habitat quality will not occur. The tanks and sumps are located in paved, industrial areas and there is no vegetation within the units. No significant natural resources or rare or endangered species of plants or animals are utilizing the units as habitat, nor are any species within the immediate vicinity of the tanks or sumps. The existing tanks will have no impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DTSC does not expect this project to have any impacts to biological resources, so no further analysis is required, other than specific questions required under Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code, see below.

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The project is to allow continued hazardous waste collection and storage in existing sumps and tanks. The area of the sumps and tanks is paved with asphalt or cement. No hydraulic indicators or wetland conditions were observed within the project area. Since no wetland conditions were encountered within the project area, the aquatic plant life (native or non-native, rare and unique, listed, threatened and endangered) will not be impacted. Therefore the project will not contribute the erosion or sediment or change to any vegetation or water resources which will individually or cumulatively result in loss of biological diversity among plants and animals.

The project will not result in change in diversity of species or numbers of any species of plants or have effects on listed, threatened and endangered species and their habitats because the units have procedures in place that will control releases or escape of hazardous waste to the ground, surface or atmosphere thereby protecting the habitats in the vicinity.

Therefore, the project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on these areas. As indicated above, no construction is necessary to renew the permit. The tanks and sumps are existing and are located within paved areas that are regularly used by facility personnel.

See response A. above

- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

See response A. above

- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

The project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any species noted above. The tanks and sumps are existing and none of the species noted in the reports described in this section are located or reside in or near the units.

See response A. above

- E. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

This project has no conflicts of this sort.

See response A. above

- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Since no new construction is involved with this project and there will be no change in the volume or amount of waste, No conflict with environmental plans of the sort listed above is expected.

See response A. above

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc.):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- C) Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Rarefind Report, Honker Bay Quadrant – March 1, 2004

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

5. Cultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact. None

Description of Environmental Setting: The site was originally developed in 1905 by the Nichols Chemical Company. The Nichols company owned 140 acres which included a chemical manufacturing facility for the production of sulfuric acid, nitric acid and alum. Due to the remote location of the original facility, the Nichols Company sponsored a development that became known as the Town of Nichols. The town consisted of residential units that have since been razed. General Chemical West LLC bought the major manufacturing portion of the facility (26 acres) in 1986. No cultural or archeological resources have been discovered at the facility. The current project will involve no excavation or construction and there is no potential for disturbance of unknown cultural or archeological resources. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc.):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

6. Geology and Soil

Project activities likely to create an impact: Spills and leaks.

Description of Environmental Setting: Much of the General Chemical West site is underlain with fill material from between 1 foot and 8 feet below ground surface due to periodic fill episodes. Below this material there exists unconsolidated sediment which has been classified as part of the Bay Mud Unit of Holocene age which is naturally high in organic content and includes a peat layer. Alluvial deposits exist adjacent to the site including ravine and flood plain materials of sand, silt, and gravel of late quaternary age. The nearest bedrock unit is the Tehema formation of Pliocene age that consists of weakly consolidated clay, sand, silt, and gravel.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Loss of topsoil could occur in the case of a spill or leak that requires excavation as a remediation measure. However, this possibility is mitigated by operating the tanks such that only one is filled at a time while the other is emptied and ensuring that the neither tank is filled beyond 15,000 gallons (each tank has a 16,400 gallon capacity). Thus, the tanks are never operated so that both are at or near their maximum level. In addition, daily inspections of the storage system are performed and all personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of the hazardous waste storage units are appropriately trained to their roles and responsibilities. Mitigation of leaks is also incorporated into the design of the storage system itself. These measures include leak alarms, secondary containment of the tanks, sumps, and all underground piping, a level-activated sump pump installed within the secondary containment structure, and the addition of an impervious, inert epoxy coating that lines the secondary containment structure. The secondary containment structure for the two tanks consists of a 40 foot x 32 foot reinforced concrete slab 12 inches thick with 8 inch thick side walls that are 2 feet 9 inches in height. The volume of the secondary containment is approximately 27,500 gallons which exceeds the volume of one tank by more than 10,000 gallons. The collection sumps all have secondary containment as well. Finally, the storage tanks and most of the associated above ground piping is underlain by relatively impermeable asphalt or concrete. Thus, spills and leaks that may impact the geology and soils are not likely and have been mitigated to the extent possible.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Describe to what extent project activities would:

- A. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42).
- There is no known fault within a quarter mile of the site.
- Strong seismic ground shaking.
- See response above.
- Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

See response above.

- Landslides.

See response above.

- B. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

Any leak from the sumps or tanks will be contained in the secondary containment.

- C. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

See response to Subcategory a. and b. above. None of the above concerns are expected.

- D. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.

The project is not located on expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code.

- E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of water.

The project does not entail the new construction of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

- F. Be located in an area containing naturally occurring asbestos (see also Air Quality, f.).

The project is not located in an area containing naturally occurring asbestos.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
 Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project activities likely to create an impact: Spills and leaks

Description of Environmental Setting: The material that is collected in the sumps and subsequently stored in the tanks is generally acidic wastewater in nature and not expected to emit hazardous emissions, thus direct contact is the most plausible route of exposure that could affect the public. The

process of collecting the liquid waste in the various sumps, pumping it to the permitted storage unit, storing it, and finally off-loading it to the transport trucks does provide the opportunity for spills or leaks which, if large enough, could pose a risk to the public or the environment. As indicated in section 6, there are several features to the HWCUs and the HWSU which are designed to mitigate these spills and leaks. In addition to those however, the permit application includes a specific Health and Safety Plan as well as a Hazardous Waste Management Plan that establishes guidelines and requirements for the health and safety of field personnel during field activities associated with the permitted unit. As indicated previously, all facility personnel who are involved in the operation and maintenance of the hazardous waste collection and storage system including operators, supervisors and managers are required to be trained as appropriate to their roles and responsibilities on hazardous waste handling procedures, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid, respirators, and self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). All facility personnel are trained annually in the implementation of the facility Emergency Action Plan and RCRA Contingency Plan.

The public is barred from entering the area by a fence that surrounds the facility and there is only a single, guarded entrance. The tanks are also adorned with signs with the legend: "Caution, Hazardous Waste Area – Unauthorized Persons Keep Out". The site itself is located more than a quarter mile away from any public or residential areas. Please refer to Figure 2. The HWSU is approximately in mid-page, labeled "Hazardous Waste Management Unit."

Analysis of Potential Impact: Describe to what extent project activities would:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

There is no risk of exposure since the waste is collected in the sumps by gravity and is routed to the storage tanks by mechanical pumps. On-going monitoring is designed to identify and respond to localized releases within the system.

The waste is off-loaded from the tanks to transport trucks by means of the truck's pump system. Only drivers certified in hazardous materials transportation are utilized for material transport. Only stainless steel trailers are utilized for transport. Only licensed Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facilities receive the material.

DTSC did not require preparation of a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) as part of this permit determination principally because no potential pathways appear to exist that would otherwise lead to human and ecological exposure to the wastes.

- B. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

Sub-section 6 describes how the unit is operated to ensure safety and the safety measures that have been put in place to guard against environmental impacts. These include leak alarms, the lined double containment of the tanks, and the double walled construction of all underground pipes. Due to these precautions, no significant hazard to the public or the environment is expected.

- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

- D. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to public or the environment.

The project is not located the DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List).

- E. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Waste management practices, operating procedures, emergency plans, leak alarms, level activated sump and tank unit pumps, and employee training requirements help ensure safe conditions and no releases to the environment. No releases of environmental significance have occurred during the operation of the hazardous waste storage tanks since inception of their operation.

Due to the isolation of the tanks, sumps, and piping within the facility, the secondary or double containment that exists within the system, and the limited accessibility to the facility, this project is not expected to result in the creation of any significant health hazards or exposures to any persons at levels that might pose a significant health hazard.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- C) General Chemical Corp. Emergency Response Plan, April 26, 2004

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

8. Hydrology and Water Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact. Spills and leaks.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Deposits underlying the southern portion of the GCW site are more permeable than the deposits underlying the northern portion of the site because of reductions in hydraulic conductivity as the deposits transition from alluvial non-marine materials to the Bay Mud Unit. The groundwater within the shallow subsurface zone exists between 1 foot and 6 feet below ground surface (bgs) and flow rates are limited due to the low permeability of the Bay Mud Unit. A deeper, regional aquifer exists at a depth of approximately 40 feet bgs. Groundwater elevations in the shallow zone indicate a 'mound' within the central portion of the site. Groundwater flow directions radiate away from this mound within the facility. Tidal influences on the water levels were not observed in a 68-hour study conducted in 1998. The groundwater below the GCW site is contaminated with metals and some volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene, and trichloroethylene but this is historic contamination and there is no evidence that the HWSU's are a source. There is no record of a spill or leak having occurred at the HWSU's. The potential for offsite migration of groundwater contaminants will continue to be evaluated through future data collection efforts (i.e., routine groundwater sampling and monitoring).

Please refer to Sections 6 and 7 above for additional information regarding the design and work practices associated with the project. These sections describe the precautions taken by GCW to mitigate any impact to the hydrology and water quality of the area.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Describe to what extent project activities would:

- A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Non-hazardous liquid waste is collected separately from the hazardous waste collection units and is sent to a waste water effluent lagoon for treatment and subsequent discharge to the Suisun Bay under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued and regulated by the Water Board. Hazardous liquid waste is collected and stored by the HWCUs and HWSU respectively. No treatment is conducted at the facility and thus no discharges of the liquid hazardous wastes occur. The liquid hazardous waste stored in the two tanks is taken off-site by tank truck by an independent TSD facility for treatment and disposal.

- B. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficient in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).

The project does not use groundwater and therefore will not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site.

There is no discharge from the HWCUs or the HWSU. See response to Subcategory a. above.

- D. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site.

No discharge from the HWCUs or the HWSU is authorized.

- E. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

The storage tanks are closed and situated within secondary containment. No discharge from HWSU is authorized.

- F. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality.

No discharge from the HWSU is authorized and any spill will be contained.

- G. Place within a 100-flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.

The HWSU is located within the expected boundary of a 100 year flood plain. To mitigate this situation, the walls of the secondary containment structure were designed to be higher than the high mark of a 100 year flood. In addition, the tanks are anchored to the floor of the secondary containment structure to ensure they do not float away in the event a flood does breach the containment walls.

- H. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

As described above, the tanks are designed to withstand a 100 year flood. In the event of a flood of greater proportions, the tanks will not float because they are anchored to the floor.

- I. Inundation by sieche, tsunami or mudflow.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
 Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

9. Land Use and Planning

Project activities likely to create an impact. None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

This project is to allow continued use of collection sumps and storage tanks. The project does not involve or result in alteration of present or planned land use. The General Chemical site and those adjacent to it are all in an area zoned for heavy industrial use and reportedly lie within the Concord Naval Weapons Station Condemnation Zone. The original facility was built by Nichols Chemical Company in 1907 and prior to development the land was generally an unused marsh. GCW manufactures hi-purity acids and Alum and stores the hazardous wastes associated with these processes for shipment to a specialized off-site TSDF. The past and current use of the property is consistent with the General Plan land use designation. Future use of the General Chemical properties is as a manufacturing facility for the production of chemically pure acids.

All permitted activities occur within the existing facility. No physical changes to the buildings or structures are planned. The project will not result in any changes to the existing land use, and will not have impacts on the land use. Therefore, no more analysis on the environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
 Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated

- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

10. Mineral Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

There are no known mineral resources at the project site.

None of the waste management activities at GCW consume natural resources, except what may be required by a small business. A minimal amount of electricity and fuel is required to pump the waste from the collection sumps to the storage tanks and to transport the waste off-site. The project does not involve or result in a change to the use of any natural resource within the area.

No construction, dismantling, excavation, or grading is proposed with this project. For these reasons, DTSC finds that the proposed project will not result in impacts upon this resource category. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

11. Noise

Project activities likely to create an impact: Operation of trucks and equipment.

Description of Environmental Setting:

This project will not increase the noise levels within the area to any significant degree. The pumps associated with the collection and storage system operate intermittently during the week. The pumps are electric, located underground or indoors, and are relatively quiet. Thus, the noise associated with the pump equipment is close to ambient levels. As noted in previous sections, the GCW facility is isolated and thus the everyday activities of the plant are not audible to the public. In addition, public access is not permitted and only properly trained personnel operate/manage the tanks.

The transportation of the waste off-site is conducted intermittently and does not contribute significantly to the overall noise level of the facility or the area. The loading of the waste on to tanker trucks for transportation occurs approximately three times per month and generally consists of one truck per

shipment. This constitutes less than 1% of the total number of trucks or railcars required to frequent the site for delivery of raw materials and shipment of products. As such, this project will not increase the noise levels within the area to any significant degree.

General Chemical complies with workplace noise exposure regulations of CCR Title 8. In furtherance of this, we have developed a Hearing Conservation Program, designed to protect our employees.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Describe to what extent project activities would:

- a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

As described above, the noise associated with the collection sumps and storage tanks is intermittent and much less than other areas of the site. Due to the isolation of GCW plant as a whole, any noise associated with the HWSF does not significantly impact the surrounding area.

- b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels.

See response to Subcategory a. above.

- c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity above levels existing without the project.

See response to Subcategory a. above.

- d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

See response to Subcategory a. above.

Specific References (a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
C) Hearing Conservation Program

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
 Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

12. Population and Housing

Project activities likely to create an impact: None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

GCW is located in a relatively remote area of Contra Costa County and is at least a half mile away from the nearest residence (see Figure 3). The entire area is zoned for heavy industrial use and lies within the CNWS Condemnation Zone. The CNWS is the major navel-explosive transshipment facility on the west coast and is scheduled to remain open as an operating military facility. As per the Part B application, the intent of the Condemnation Zone is to allow the United States (U.S.) Navy to purchase properties within the zone to minimize risks associated with ordnance handling for civilian populations outside the CNWS. As a result, the GCW site and adjacent properties may not be sold or re-zoned by Contra Costa County without the express consent of the U.S. Navy.

The proposed project will not require any hiring of additional employees beyond those already assigned to the project. The project also will not entail the construction of any new off-site or on-site housing units. For these reasons, DTSC finds that the proposed project will not result in impacts upon this resource category. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

13. Public Services

Project activities likely to create an impact. None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

This project will not impose any changes to the waste streams or the capacity of the HWCU's or the HWSU, thus the project does not require additional public services such as fire protection, police protection, and public transit. The project is under DTSC oversight, but other agencies may be involved, such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Environmental Health Department, and Contra Costa County. Their involvement is an extension of their normal regulatory activities at the installation, and will not have a significant impact on their continuing operations.

No significant impacts on any public services are expected as a result of this project. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

14. Recreation

Project activities likely to create an impact: None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

As noted in previous sections, the GCW facility is located in a remote corner of Contra Costa County, zoned Heavy Industrial. There are no nearby recreation areas other than Suisun Bay which is a public waterway. In addition, there are no schools, parks, public transportation, hospitals, or day-care centers located within a half mile of the site (see Figure 3). The project does not generate the need for an increase for on and off-site recreational facilities. For these reasons, DTSC finds that the proposed project will not result in impacts upon this resource category. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

15. Transportation and Traffic

Project activities likely to create an impact: None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Regionally, traffic flow occurs from Highway 4 located approximately 2 miles to the south via the Willow Pass Road exit. Traffic in the area of the facility is limited to commercial truck traffic which services GCW and neighboring industries. To the North, East, and West of the facility are no businesses, no structures, no roads, and therefore no traffic. General Chemical is located at the far northern end of Nichols Road. To the immediate south is a power plant, which receives multiple trucks per day, although relatively little employee traffic. Adjacent to the power plant (to the south) is a truck transfer lot, which sees several hundred trucks per day, spaced throughout the day. There is only one access and egress gate at the facility located near the southwest edge of the property. This gate is monitored by security guards 24 hours a day. General Chemical West employee vehicles are also present but they must be parked outside the GCW facility in an existing parking lot and are not allowed to circulate through the Facility.

Typical on-site truck traffic flow is depicted on Figure 4. As described in Section 11, the amount of truck traffic associated with the HWSU is extremely small (3 trucks per month) when compared to the overall traffic at the site. General Chemical has directed the haulers that pick up these loads of hazardous waste to follow a preferred route from the General Chemical facility to Highway 4. The preferred route is to exit the facility and turn left onto Port Chicago Highway until Willow Pass Road. Then turn right onto Highway 4. These haulers are directed not to travel via any other Bay Point city streets. There should not be truck traffic on other residential streets. In addition, this project proposes no changes in the type or volume of waste collected within the HWCUs or stored within the HWSU and thus the traffic associated with it is not expected to change. For these reasons, DTSC finds that the proposed project will not result in impacts upon this resource category.

Analysis of Potential Impact. Describe to what extent project activities would:

- a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).

The facility has been in operation since the early 1900's and has not over loaded the capacity of the street system. The Facility would continue to operate the HWCUs and HWSU at the same level with no change in either volume or content; therefore, it would not create an impact.

- b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the country congestion management agency for designated roads or highway.

Please refer to the response in item a. The Facility would continue to operate the HWCUs and HWSU at the same level.

- c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).

There are no planned changes to any design features.

- d. Result in inadequate emergency access.

The Facility has adequate access as described in the Environmental Setting above and shown in Figure 4.

- e. Result in inadequate parking capacity.

There is sufficient parking at the facility for all of the vehicles associated with the operation of the facility in the parking lot outside the main gate.

- f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

16. Utilities and Service Systems

Project activities likely to create an impact. None.

Description of Environmental Setting:

The GCW utilities are provided by Pacific Gas & Electric, Contra Costa County Water District, and Delta Diablo Sanitation District. The sumps, pipes, and tanks associated with the hazardous waste collection and storage are independent and isolated from facility utilities and all waste collection is done within the boundaries of GCW. The waste is trucked off site for treatment and disposal so no waste is discharged to the sewer from the HWSF.

The proposed permit renewal does not constitute a significant alteration of the existing demand for utilities. No increases in the need for gas or water utilities have been identified. This project will not involve or result in a need for any new utilities. Therefore, no more analysis on this environmental resource is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impact: Not applicable.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
- Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
- Less Than Significant Impact
- No Impact

17. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

- a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

Based on the analysis in the air, biological, geological, hazardous, and hydrological sections of this Initial Study, the project will not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment or degrade the habitat of species in the area. Precautions have been taken to guard against any spills or leaks from the system as described throughout this document. If a spill or leak occurs, mechanisms such as absorbent

pads and booms, granular absorbent, and brooms and shovels are located throughout the facility to ensure the waste does not impact the environment. The renewed permit prescribes inspections of the HWSU on a regular basis to monitor the integrity of the tanks.

- b. Have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

There are no similar projects nearby and no plans are known to exist for any future similar projects. Based on the analysis provided in this Initial Study, the collection and storage of the waste at this facility will not be cumulative or considerable.

- c. Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The waste is not volatile and never directly handled by staff during standard operations. The waste is not treated nor disposed of on site. Based on the analysis in this Initial Study, there will be no significant impacts from this project.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburg, California 94565
- C) California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database, Rarefind Report, March 1, 2004

Findings of Significance:

- Potential Significant Impact
 Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

V. DETERMINATION OF DE MINIMIS IMPACT TO FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

In the *Explanation and Supporting Evidence* section below, provide substantial evidence as to how the project will have no potential adverse effect on the following resources:

- a) Riparian land, rivers, streams, watercourse, and wetland under state or federal jurisdiction

There are no impacts on riparian land, rivers, streams, watercourse, and wetland under state or federal jurisdiction. The project allows for continued liquid hazardous waste collection and storage in sumps and tanks respectively. There is no construction, dismantling, excavation, or grading proposed with this project. Management practices, operating procedures and an inspection program in the facility operation plan will help to ensure that there are no releases to the environment. No hazardous wastes are discharged from this facility into the air or land. General Chemical West has operated at this location since 1993. No significant environmental incidents have occurred during the operation of the facility.

- b) Native and non-native plant life and the soil required to sustain habitat for fish and wildlife

See response A.

c) Rare and unique plant life and ecological communities dependent on plant life.

There are no impacts on rare and unique plant life and ecological communities dependent on plant life.
See response A.

d) Listed threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitat in which they are believed to reside.

There are no impacts on listed threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitat in which they are believed to reside.

See response A.

e) All species of plant or animals as listed as protected or identified for special management in the Fish and Game Code, the Public Resources Code, the Water Code, or regulations adopted there under.

There are no impacts on all species of plant or animals as listed as protected or identified for special management in the Fish and Game Code, the Public Resources Code, the Water Code, or regulations adopted there under.

See response A.

f) All marine and terrestrial plants species subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game and ecological communities in which they reside

There are no impacts on all marine and terrestrial plants species subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game and ecological communities in which they reside.

See response A.

g) All air and water resources the degradation of which will individually or cumulatively result in a loss of biological diversity among the plants and animals residing in that air and water

There are no impacts on all air and water resources the degradation of which will individually or cumulatively result in a loss of biological diversity among the plants and animals residing in that air and water.

See response A.

Explanation and Supporting Evidence

Based on the analysis in the biological section of this Initial Study, and the Department of Fish and Game Rarefind report data, there will be no potential for an adverse effect on the above resources or species.

Finding

Based on the explanation and supporting evidence provided above, DTSC finds that the project will have no potential for adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively on fish and wildlife, or the habitat on which it depends, as defined by section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

VI. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this Initial Study:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

//Signed By//		5/26/06
DTSC Project Manager Signature		Date
Waqar Ahmad	Hazardous Substances Engineer	510.540.3932
DTSC Project Manager Name	Title	Phone #

//Signed By//		5/26/06
DTSC Branch Chief/Section Chief Signature		Date
Mohinder S Sandhu	Chief	510.540.3974
DTSC Branch/Section Chief Name	Title	Phone #

ATTACHMENT A
INITIAL STUDY REFERENCE LIST

For

GENERAL CHEMICAL WEST, LLC – PERMIT RENEWAL

- A) RCRA Part B Application. General Chemical West, LLC – Bay Point Works, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburgh, California 94565
- B) CEQA Submittal. General Chemical West, LLC, 501 Nichols Road, Pittsburgh, California 94565
- C) California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database, Rarefind Report, March 1, 2004
- D) http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/air_quality/ambient_air_quality.asp
- E) General Chemical Corp. Emergency Response Plan, April 26, 2004
- F) General Chemical Corp. Hearing Conservation Program, February 18, 2003

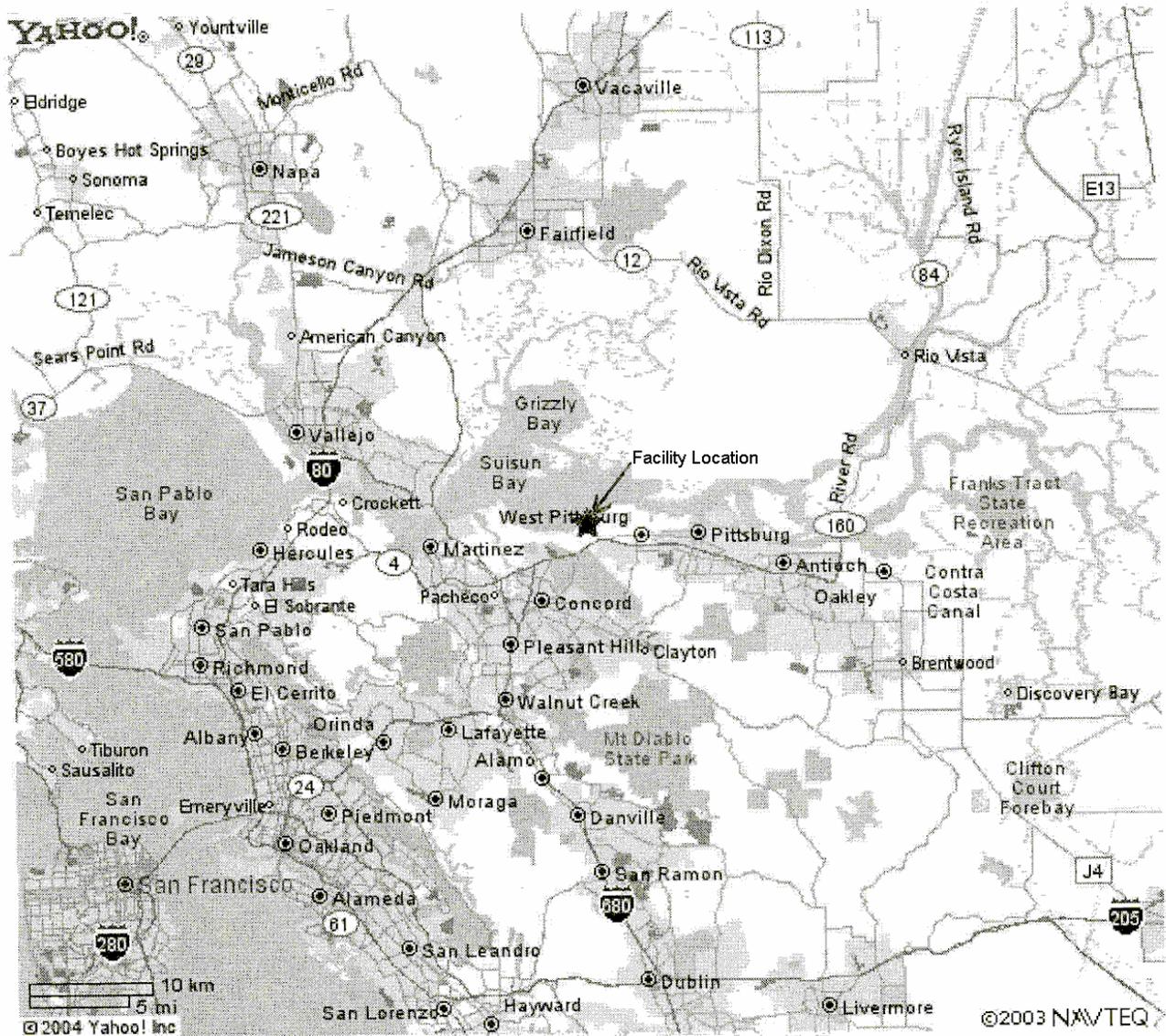


FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION

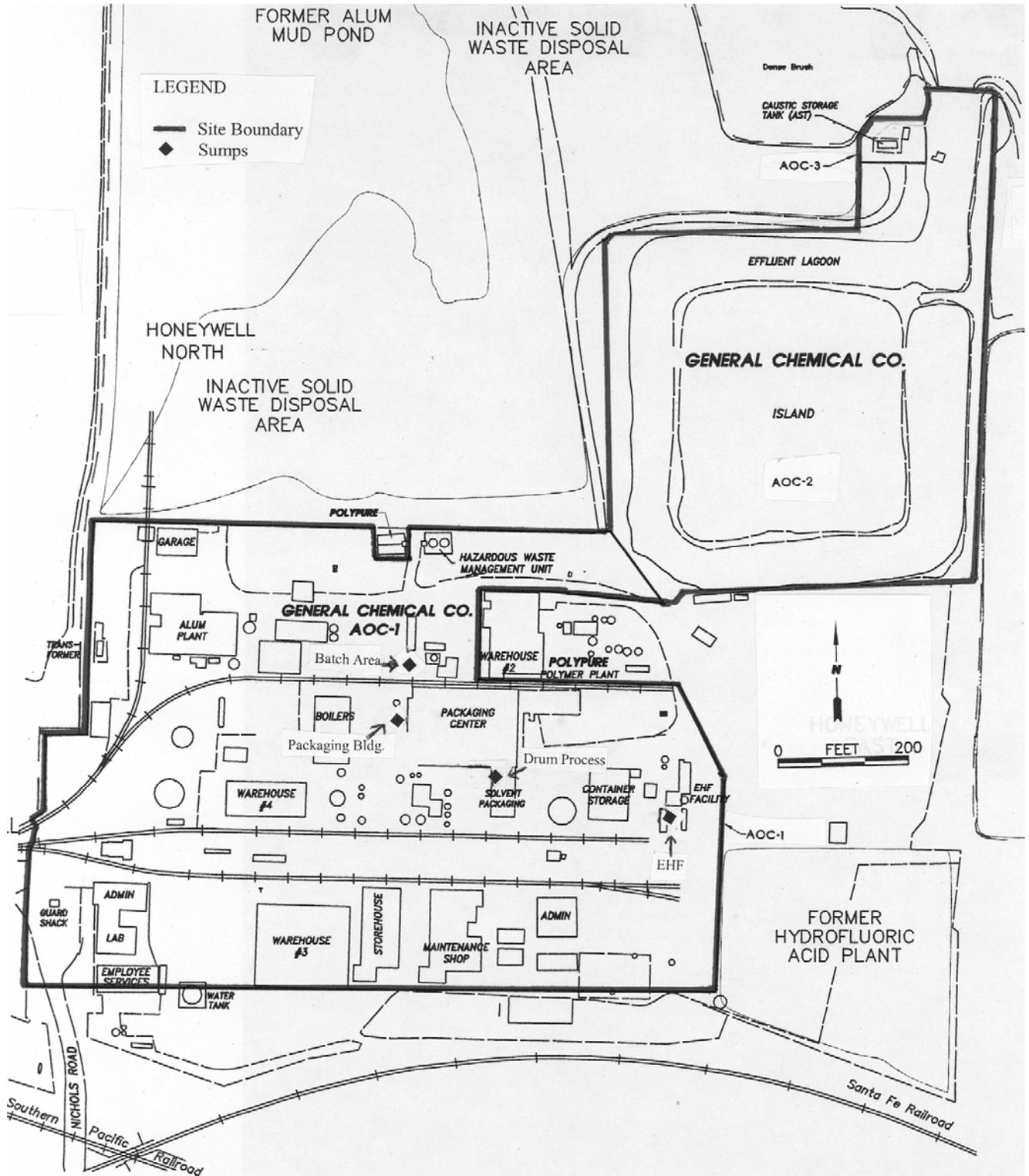


FIGURE 2. FACILITY MAP

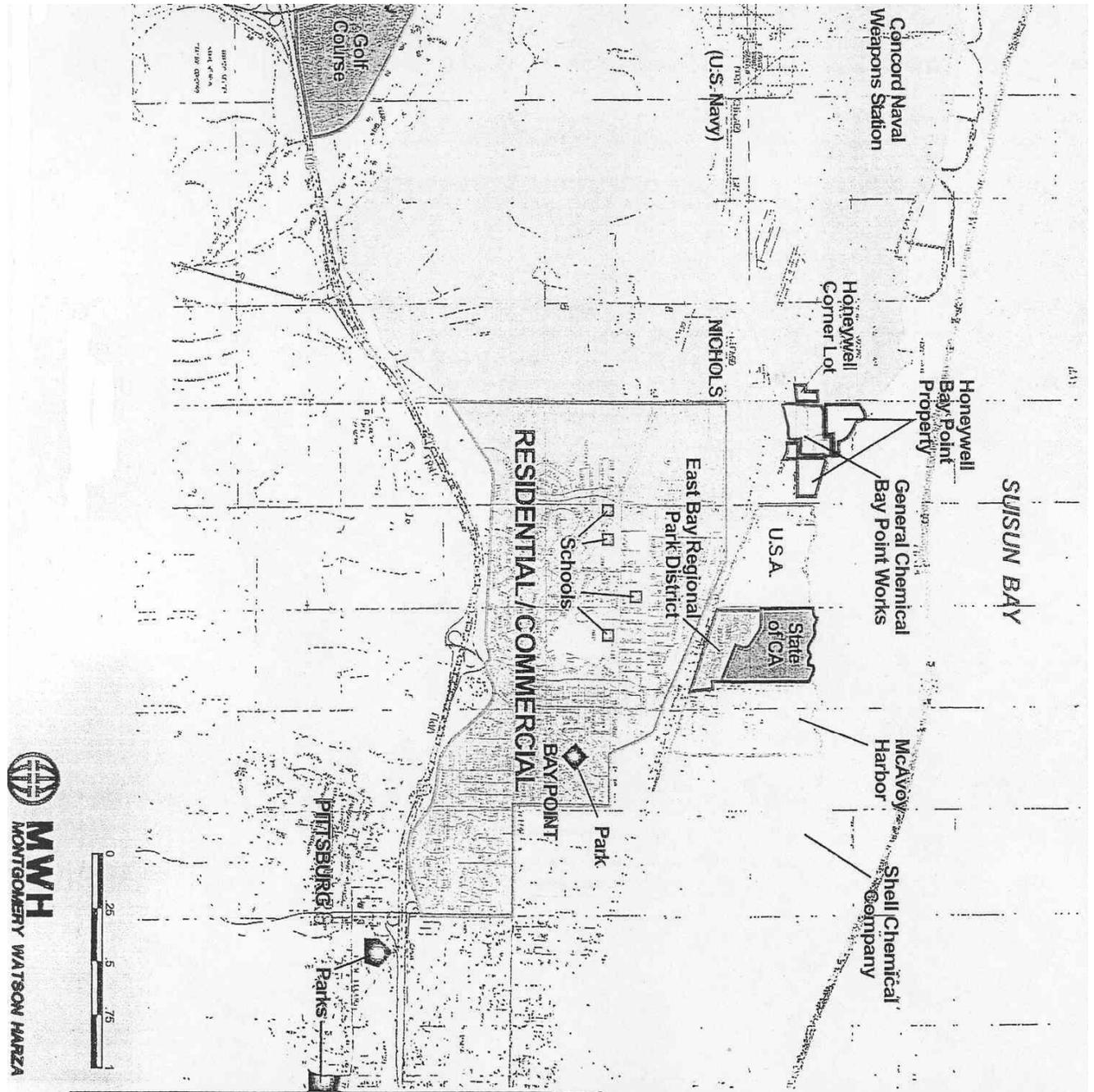


FIGURE 3. VICINITY MAP

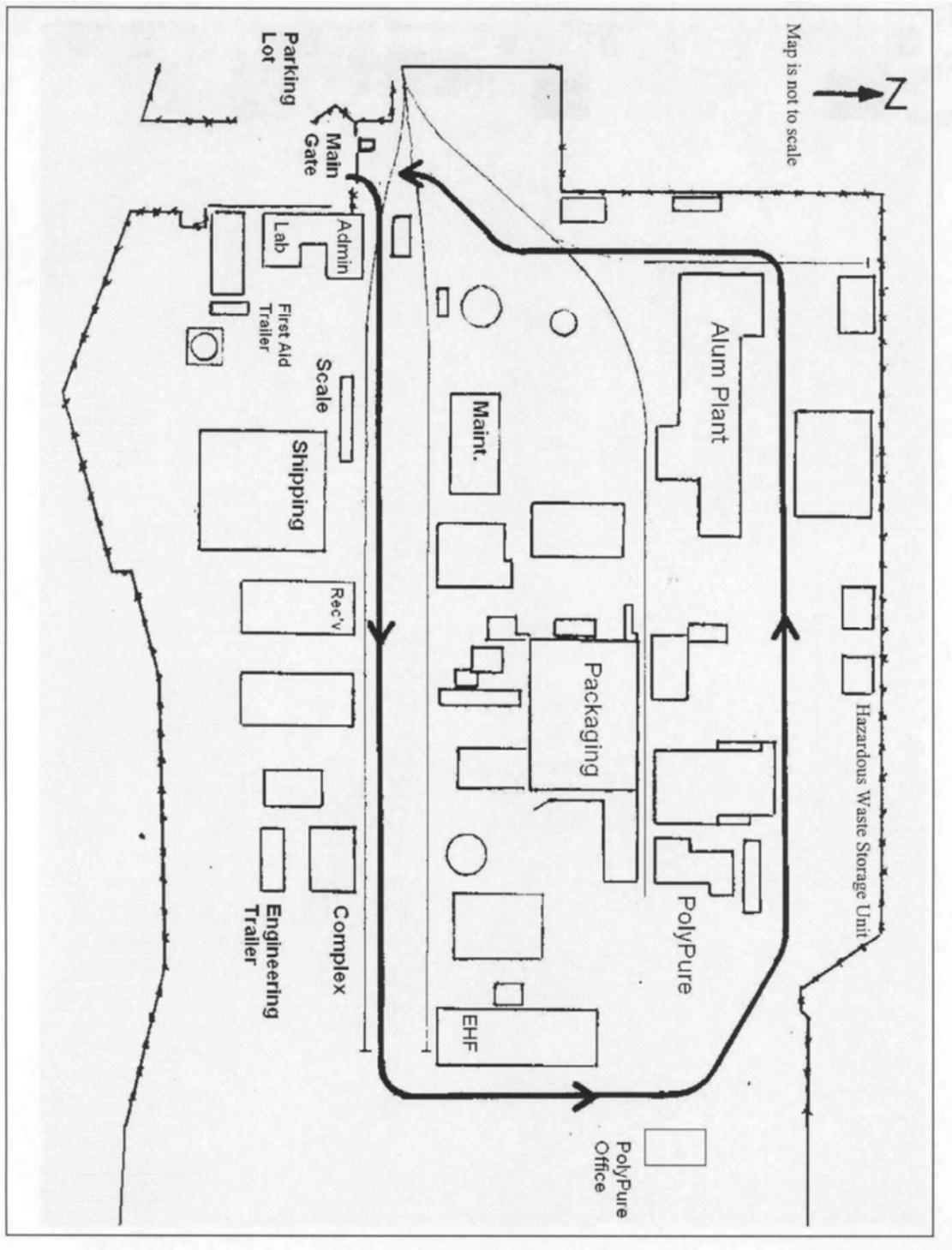


FIGURE 4. TRAFFIC FLOW PATTERN