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Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

Fact Sheet, March 2005

Draft Permit Renewal and Draft Removal Action Workplan

Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Incorporated San Jose, California

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is accepting public comment on the Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit renewal (Draft Permit), Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW) for Parcel O-6, and Draft Negative Declaration for the Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Incorporated (Hitachi GST) facility located at 5600 Cottle Road, San Jose, California 95193. DTSC also will be holding a public meeting and a hearing to discuss the project and to receive public comments on Wednesday, April 13, 2005. The facility was formerly owned by International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation.

Please note that this project is not related to the Hitachi GST campus redevelopment, which will not be discussed at this public meeting and hearing.

Information contained in this fact sheet:

- Facility background.
- Why is a permit renewal necessary?
- Hazardous waste activities authorized by the permit.
- Enforcement history with the DTSC.
- Parcel O-6.
- Draft Removal Action Workplan for Parcel O-6.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- What happens when DTSC makes a final decision?
- Where can I find additional information?

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETING/HEARING

The 45-day public comment period for the Draft Permit and Draft RAW begins on Friday, March 11, 2005, and ends on Monday, April 25, 2005. Written comments must be postmarked by Monday, April 25, 2005, and sent to:

Mr. Paul Ruffin
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95826

Or they can be e-mailed by midnight of April 25, 2005, to pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov.

A public meeting and a hearing will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, in the library at Alex Anderson Elementary School located at 5800 Calpine Drive, San Jose, California. The purpose of the public meeting is to discuss and answer questions concerning the project. Once the public meeting portion is complete, a formal public hearing will be convened to accept public comments.



The Hitachi GST facility is located seven miles southeast of the central business district in San Jose. The Site Orientation Map (Figure 1) shows the site location and nearby schools and child care facilities. The facility consists of 30 buildings on approximately 332 acres located southwest of Highway 101 and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company railroad tracks, north of Highway 85, and east of Cottle Road.

From 1955 to 2003, IBM conducted research, development and manufacturing operations related to computer storage devices, such as hard disk drives, read/write heads, and disk storage media. DTSC issued permits to IBM for hazardous waste storage and treatment activities in April 1985 and December 1992. Hitachi GST purchased the facility in January 2003 and continues facility operations. The change in ownership did not significantly affect waste management activities at the facility and did not increase waste generation or add new waste operations. DTSC has reviewed Hitachi GST's permit application for compliance with current requirements for hazardous waste management. Hitachi GST will be authorized to perform the activities summarized below, which are described in more detail in the Draft Permit.

Why is a permit renewal necessary?

The IBM permit expired on December 19, 2002. DTSC issues permits for a maximum duration of ten years. The IBM permit was modified for the change in ownership to Hitachi GST and continues to be in effect until DTSC makes a decision about Hitachi GST's Draft Permit renewal.

Hazardous waste activities authorized by the permit

Hitachi GST's manufacturing and development activities involving chemical use are primarily etching, coating, plating, cleaning, and assembly. The chemicals used at the Facility include corrosive acids and bases, halogenated and non-halogenated organic solvents, lubricants, adhesives, and resins. Hazardous wastes generated from these processes are either treated at the Facility or transported for recycling or disposal at an authorized hazardous waste facility. Treatment processes at the Facility include both chemical and physical treatment [e.g., pH adjustment, precipitation, filtration, rinsing, consolidation (bulking), etc.]. The waste management activities are primarily conducted at Building 042, Central Tank Farm B, 11

waste vaults with storage tanks, and Building 110. The locations of these buildings and waste vaults are shown on Figure 2, Location of Hazardous Waste Management Units.

Building 042 is the central station for receiving, classifying, repackaging, storing and shipping hazardous wastes stored in containers. Wastes in Building 042 are segregated during storage in rooms based on the hazardous properties of the waste in order to prevent mixing of incompatible wastes. The total volume of hazardous waste allowed to be stored in Building 042 is 88,900 gallons. Waste may be stored for no longer than one year. Empty containers previously containing hazardous materials are rinsed in one of two bottle washers located in Building 042. Bottle wash water is conveyed to Building 110A for treatment.

Hazardous waste storage tanks are located at Central Tank Farm B and in waste vaults outside of the manufacturing buildings where the waste is generated. Central Tank Farm B contains 10 tanks each with a capacity of 7,000 gallons. There are 11 waste vaults containing a total of 32 hazardous waste tanks with a combined capacity of 62,712 gallons. Tanks containing organic solvents are connected by pipelines to tanks at Central Tank Farm B. Waste solvents are transferred to tanker trucks for shipment to recycling or disposal facilities.

Waste water streams are transmitted from the manufacturing areas to the Industrial Waste Water Treatment Facility (IWWTF) at Building 110 through a network of pipelines contained in trenches and tunnels. There are two treatment systems at Building 110, Concentrate Wastewater Treatment System and Organic Treatment System.

Building 110 has 17 hazardous waste tanks ranging in size from 500 to 260,000 gallons with a total capacity of 607,409 gallons. Spill containment for the waste tanks at the Facility is provided by reinforced concrete structures with protective coatings and, in some cases, also by tank-in-tank construction. The tanks and containment structures have been certified by independent professional engineers for use at the facility, including consideration of potential seismic (earthquake) events.

Enforcement history with DTSC

During the last several inspections by DTSC, going back to 1997, two minor violations were noted. During one inspection, a visual inspection log was missing, and in the other inspection the quantity of waste material in a storage area exceeded the allowed maximum capacity. Only minor violations have been noted over the last ten years, and all have been properly addressed.

Parcel O-6

Hitachi GST proposes to sell an approximately 11-acre portion of Facility, identified as Parcel O-6, to the City of San Jose for a police substation. Parcel O-6 is located in the eastern corner of the facility near Building 050 (see Figure 2). Parcel O-6 currently consists of orchards and parking lot areas for Building 050. In September 2004, soil samples were collected from Parcel O-6 and analyzed for metals, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Arsenic was found in the orchard at concentrations greater than local background concentrations and concentrations considered safe for human health. The arsenic is likely due to previous agricultural use of the property. The rock fill material underlying the parking lots was found to contain asbestos. The asbestos is a naturally occurring part of the rock, but is a potential risk to human health if the rock is disturbed and releases asbestos fibers into the air. The arsenic and asbestos must be controlled or removed before Hitachi GST transfers Parcel O-6 to the City of San Jose.

Draft Removal Action Workplan for Parcel O-6

Hitachi GST prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for Parcel O-6 to describe how the arsenic and asbestos may be controlled or removed. Based on the existing soil sample data, the Draft RAW identifies areas where arsenic or asbestos are in concentrations greater than defined removal action goals. The removal action goal for arsenic is an average concentration of 8 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) with a maximum concentration of 12 mg/kg. The removal action goal for asbestos is 0.25 percent.

Hitachi GST proposes to remove the contaminated soil and fill and dispose of it at an appropriately authorized disposal facility. It is estimated that 3,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with arsenic and 2,500 cubic yards of fill material will be excavated and removed for offsite disposal or recycling. Approximately 300 to 350 truckloads will be required to remove the excavated material over a roughly four week period. An Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan will be prepared for approval by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to ensure that asbestos and dust contaminated with arsenic are not released from the site. Soil samples will be collected and analyzed to confirm that the removal action goal for arsenic is met. The removal action is expected to take approximately 6 weeks to complete. DTSC requests public comments on the Draft RAW and the proposed final remedy for Parcel O-6.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC completed an Initial Study for the Draft Permit renewal and Draft RAW in accordance with the CEQA (California Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.) and Implementing Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq.). The Initial Study determined that the permit renewal and removal action would not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration was has been proposed.

What happens when DTSC makes a final decision?

Before making a final determination, DTSC will review all public comments on the Proposed Negative Declaration, the Draft Permit, and the Draft RAW. Once a determination is made, DTSC will respond in writing to public comments. A Notice of Final Permit Decision and the Response to Comments will be mailed to individuals who submitted comments and to those who request a copy.

DTSC's final permit decision may be appealed within 30 days of the permit decision in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66271.18. Only persons who filed comments on the Draft Permit or participated in the public hearing may petition DTSC to review the final permit decision.

Where can I find more information?

The permit renewal application, Draft Permit, Draft RAW, Draft Negative Declaration, and related documents can be viewed at these three locations:

Santa Teresa Library

290 International Circle
San Jose, California 95119
(408) 281-1879

Library Hours:

Mon -Wed: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thurs-Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
Mr. Paul Ruffin
(916) 255-6677

File Room:

Mon-Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
by appointment (916) 255-3758.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710-2721

File Room: Mon-Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment (510) 540-3800

If you would like more information or have questions on the Hitachi GST permit renewal or removal action, please contact:

Mr. Paul Ruffin at (916) 255-6677 or pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions about the public participation process, contact:

Mr. Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3649 or rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov.

For media questions, please contact:

Ms. Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732 or ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (**711 or 1-800-735-2929**) and ask to speak to Mr. Randy Sturgeon at 916-255-3649.

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 Randy Sturgeon, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

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.