



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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  
Northern California Permitting and  
Corrective Action Branch  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: IT Environmental Liquidating Trust, Montezuma Hills Facility – PostClosure Permit Renewal

Project Location: About 8 miles west of Rio Vista;

County: Solano County

Project Description: This project consists of renewing the Montezuma Hills (Facility) Postclosure Permit. No physical changes to the site are proposed. The Facility consists of 1) a closed - covered Waste Consolidation Area (WCA), 2) a Groundwater Evaporation Basin and conveyance system, 3) and a former Waste Excavation Area. IT Environmental Liquidating Trust (ITELT) is the current owner. On January 31, 1998, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issued a Postclosure Permit for the facility which expires ten years from the date of issuance. Under the conditions of the Postclosure Permit, state and federal regulations require that a postclosure plan for a 30 -year period be developed and implemented by the facility. The renewed Postclosure Permit outlines the procedures to fulfill these regulatory requirements which consist of three primary functions: a) continue maintenance of the closure cover, b) continue environmental monitoring; and c) continue maintenance of financial mechanisms to fund the postclosure activities.

#### **Background**

##### **Location, Usage, and History**

The Montezuma Hills Facility is located at 6292 Little Honker Bay Road, at the intersection with Olsen Road and California State Highway 12, approximately eight (8) miles west of the town of Rio Vista in Solano County, California. Of the 160 acres of land owned by IT Environmental Liquidating Trust (ITELT) at this location, waste management operations were conducted within an area of approximately 52 acres. Within this 52 acre area, the WCA occupies the northern one-third portion and the Waste Excavation Area occupies the southern two-thirds portion. The Groundwater Evaporation Basin is located in the southeastern portion of the WCA.

The former operations at the Montezuma Hills facility consisted of a treatment, storage, and disposal facility for Class I and II hazardous wastes from 1979 to 1986. During its operation, the facility utilized 12 surface impoundments for evaporation of liquid and sludge wastes. Wastes disposed at the facility were primarily liquids and sludge generated from the petroleum industry and included the following:

- drilling muds
- fluids coincident to gas/oil exploration and production

- dilute brines
- ballast waste after oil removal and recycle
- neutralized aqueous solutions of acidic or alkaline origin
- wastewater treatment solids
- storm water runoff from areas used to handle wastes

The Montezuma Hills facility was closed in accordance with the DTSC approved Closure and Postclosure Plans. During closure, the former waste management units were completely excavated and the sludge and sub-soil were deposited in an onsite waste consolidation landfill. A non-hazardous groundwater evaporation basin (Class II surface impoundment) was also constructed to contain and evaporate recovered groundwater. Closure construction was completed in December of 1991. The Facility transitioned to postclosure care and is currently in its second postclosure permit term.

### **Groundwater**

Two water bearing zones have been identified beneath the facility, an upper and lower water-bearing zone. The facility has been in postclosure Detection and Corrective Action Monitoring since December 1991. The upper and lower water bearing zones are both monitored under the Corrective Action Monitoring Program, and the Detection Monitoring Program. The groundwater monitoring network includes about 45 monitoring, point of compliance, and background wells. Another five data gathering points exist to monitor impoundment liquid levels, liquid collection recovery, and dewatering.

### **Vadose Zone**

Vadose zone monitoring is not appropriate due to the limited thickness of the vadose zone, well documented saturated zone conditions, and previous air and soil gas monitoring data.

### **Air**

The only potential air emissions at the Facility are from the evaporation of recovered groundwater in the evaporation basin. The evaporation basin used to manage the recovered groundwater is permitted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). A limited number of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at low concentrations have been detected in the recovered groundwater only at a few locations. Data from previous investigation indicated that the Montezuma Hills Facility does not have a measurable effect on ambient air quality at the property line or at the nearest downwind receptor. Postclosure air emission calculations from groundwater sources have remained in compliance with BAAQMD permit conditions and have shown no significant effect on air quality.

### **Project Activities**

To renew the Montezuma Hills Facility Postclosure Permit the following tasks were required:

- ITELT prepared a Final Postclosure Permit Application (Application; renewal)
- DTSC reviewed the Application and required changes as part of Notice of Deficiencies
- DTSC prepared a Draft Postclosure Permit
- The Draft Permit received a 45-day public comment period
- Permit approval

The Postclosure Permit includes three main requirements:

1. Regular inspection and maintenance of the cover and drainage systems (with corrective action as necessary);
2. Environmental monitoring, consisting of regular monitoring well inspection, sampling, and data analysis; and,
3. Provisions of financial mechanisms to fund the postclosure activities for 30 years.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: IT Environmental Liquidating Trust

Exemption Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
- Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
- Categorical Exemption: [State type and section number]
- Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
- General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15061 (b)(3).  
With certainty, no possibility of significant environmental effect.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This project consists of renewing the Facility's Postclosure Permit. With the exception of periodic cover inspections and minor repairs of cover for drainage, no physical changes to the site are proposed. Control measures that will limit environmental effects to insignificant levels include the following:

- Closure Construction was certified by a registered civil engineer and later acknowledged closed by DTSC on March 18, 1992.
- Future land use of the Facility is restricted as detailed in the property deed and recorded with the Solano County recorders office on October 28, 1992.
- The closure cover integrity and inspection protocol of the cover was previously approved by DTSC in a Postclosure Permit on January 31, 1998.
- The permitted area fence completely surrounds the facility and has warning signs posted at sufficient intervals to be visible from any approach. The evaporation basin is further secured by a chain-link fence with two locked gates.
- Postclosure activities are carefully regulated to assure against the potential for any additional environmental concerns. Pursuant to DTSC authority, any new discoveries at the Facility will trigger an examination and evaluation of this notice of exemption (NOE) relative to the statutory and regulatory requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Any constituent release will trigger corrective action mechanisms such a Corrective Action Consent Agreement or Unilateral Correction Action Order, as well as evaluation of this NOE for CEQA compliance.

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<u>Project Manager Name</u>	<u>Project Manager Title</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
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<u>Ray Leclerc P.E.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>(916) 255-3582</u>
<u>Permit Renewal Team Leader</u>		<u>Phone #</u>

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

DRAFT