

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

This is a Community Update from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) about our permitting of the Chemical Waste Management, Inc. (Chem Waste), Kettleman Hills Facility (Facility).

Chem Waste has a hazardous waste facility permit. The permit lets them have hazardous waste at the Facility for transfer, treatment, storage, and disposal. The Facility is on 1,600 acres of land in the Kettleman Hills, about 3.5 miles south-west of Kettleman City.

During 2016, the Facility received roughly 50 truckloads a day of hazardous waste. The Facility gets hazardous waste from various sources including:

- Contaminated soil from site-cleanup activities;
- Drilling muds and other waste from oil and gas production;
- Industrial waste from manufacturing;
- Laboratory waste chemicals;
- Discarded consumer products e.g. electronics, vehicle waste etc.

The hazardous waste received at the Facility is managed in one of the following ways:

- Temporarily stored on-site and then shipped off-site;
- Disposed in a landfill (the waste may be treated on-site prior to disposal);
- Discharged to a surface impoundment (pond) where evaporation occurs.

DTSC approved a hazardous waste facility permit for Chem Waste in 2003. With this permit they can operate for ten-years. Chem Waste applied to renew the Facility permit in May 2013. Chem Waste can operate the Facility under the 2003 permit until DTSC makes a permit decision on the renewal application.

As part of the permit renewal application, Chem Waste asked to make changes to operations at the Facility, as follows:

- Install a new shredder to break down things like drums and recalled products into smaller pieces;
- Allow short term storage of waste in the existing treatment tanks;
- Allow consolidation and truck-to-truck transfer of waste;
- Install additional soil vapor and groundwater monitoring wells.

## 2018 Schedule

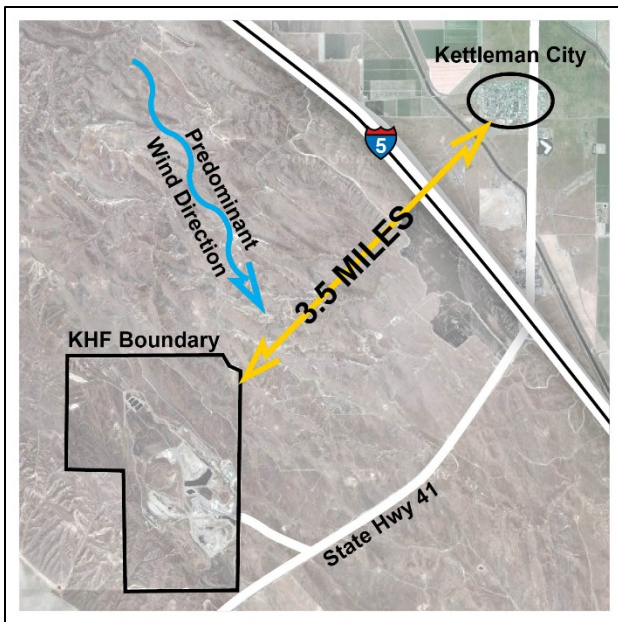
**April 26<sup>th</sup>** – Chem Waste annual public meeting  
**6:00 pm** at Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria

**Summer** – DTSC finish CEQA environmental document analysis (EDA)

**Summer** – Community Meeting on EDA

The schedule for DTSC's permit decision on the permit renewal application relies on the outcome of the CEQA EDA. However, a permit decision is expected in 2019. DTSC's draft permit decision will be released for public review and comment before the final permit decision.





The permit renewal application is in the technical review phase. DTSC is reviewing the Facility Operation Plan to make sure it complies with applicable rules and regulations, is clear and enforceable, and will allow for safe operation that protects human health and the environment. On November 6, 2017, DTSC directed Chem Waste to make changes to the application. The revised permit renewal application was submitted to DTSC on March 16, 2018. You can read it online or at any of the repositories listed below.

**CEQA:**

DTSC will also consider the environmental impact of a permit renewal for the Chem Waste Facility. This is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC selected a consultant to assist with preparing an Environmental Document

Analysis (EDA). The EDA will figure out what type of CEQA evaluation should be done. DTSC will share more information about the CEQA evaluation in the coming months.

**Corrective Action:**

Part of the permit decision will include addressing the contaminated groundwater below the Facility. A consultant is preparing an Engineering Feasibility Study (EFS) to determine options for this purpose. The contaminated groundwater is contained within the Facility boundary.

**Recent Actions:**

As of January 2018, all trucks transporting hazardous waste to the Facility must be 2010 models or newer. Beginning in 2010, trucks were required to have engines that produce lower levels of air pollution. This change is expected to result in improved air quality for the communities near the Facility.

**Contacts and information:**

\* The Chem Waste public meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> is held annually to keep the public informed about the Facility and is a requirement of DTSC's permit. Staff from DTSC will be at the meeting and available to speak with the public.

DTSC website: [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

EnviroStor Database: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)

Libraries: Kettleman City, Avenal, and Hanford

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**Public Participation:**

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## Update from the United States Environmental Protection Agency

Chemical Waste Management, Inc. submitted a revised application to renew and modify its permit to store and landfill polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing wastes at its Kettleman Hills Facility to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last July. Under federal law, EPA is responsible for permitting facilities that manage PCB waste.

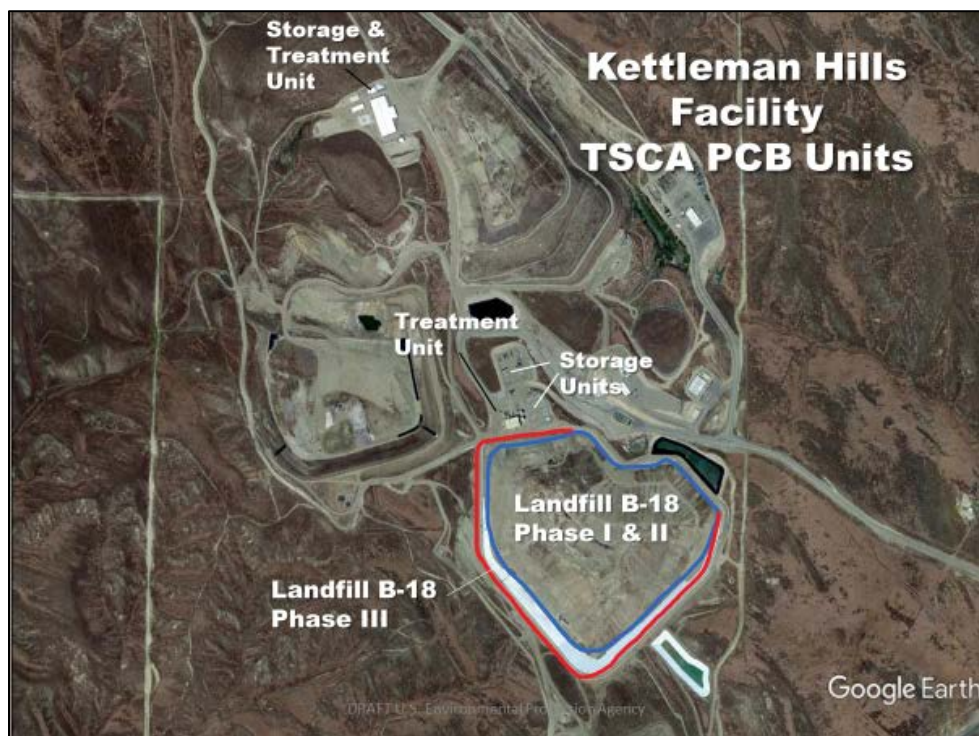
EPA reviewed the Kettleman Hills Facility's application and found that more information is needed. For example, EPA identified the future closure plans for the PCB storage units and updated recordkeeping requirements as areas that need revisions before EPA can make a decision on the application. On December 22, 2017, EPA sent a letter, called a Notice of Deficiency, to the Facility listing the needed information. The response is due to EPA by April 20, 2018. EPA's proposed decision on the PCB application will be available for public comment later this year.

A copy of the letter is available on EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/ca/kettleman-hills](http://www.epa.gov/ca/kettleman-hills) and at the Kettleman City Library. Additional information on the Facility is also available at both sites.

EPA values the community's perspectives on the Facility's PCB application. If you have any questions or comments or want further information, please contact:

EPA's project manager,  
Frances Wicher, at  
(415) 972-3957 or  
[wicher.frances@epa.gov](mailto:wicher.frances@epa.gov).

Para obtener información en  
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*The Toxic Substances Control Act US EPA permitted units*