

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

DTSC Fines Waste Management \$291,208.84 for the Kettleman Landfill Failing to Report Hazardous Waste Spills

On March 27, 2013, the Department of Toxic Substances Control announced a fine of \$291,208.84 against the Waste Management (WM) facility located 3 and 1/2 miles from Kettleman City. The fine is largely due to Waste Management's failure to report 72 hazardous waste spills at this facility over a four year period from June 2008 to 2012. In addition, Waste Management will reimburse DTSC \$19,985.16 for the Department's costs.

None of the spills happened outside the facility and none posed significant risk to workers or to the nearby communities. The spills mostly occurred in the loading and sampling areas of the facility. The spills were mostly small in volume (less than 5 pounds) and did not result in contamination outside the facility. Examples of wastes spilled include: herbicides, lead contaminated soil, and other chemicals.

DTSC's regulatory role is to make sure that facilities operate strictly according to the hazardous waste control laws and hold them accountable. The permit with WM requires that the facility report all spills so that DTSC can better evaluate facility operations. During a routine inspection in April 2012, DTSC discovered that CWM had created an internal log of spills but had failed to notify DTSC. The current permit requires verbal notification within 24 hours of a hazardous waste spill and written notification within 10 days of the discovery of a spill. Proper spill reporting provides DTSC with information regarding the safe operation of the facility.

Under the agreement, WM will pay the total settlement within 30 days of the effective date of the agreement. The settlement also makes clear all reporting requirements that the landfill must follow. The agreement also requires that Waste Management follow all treatment standards and shipping requirements.

Si desea informacion en espanol, comuniquese con Jesus Cruz a numero gratis, 1 (866) 495-5651 or Jesus.Cruz@dtsc.ca.gov.



Web links for further information:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/CWMI_Kettleman.cfm

For Further Information:
please contact **Nathan Schumacher, DTSC Public Participation Specialist** at Toll Free at (866) 495-5651 or by e-mail at

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You may also contact **Wayne Lorentzen, Project Manager**, at (916) 255-3883 or by e-mail at

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