



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2008

RHO-CHEM DRAFT PERMIT RENEWAL AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Public comments are now being accepted on the **Rho-Chem Limited Liability Corporation (Rho-Chem LLC) draft Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit Renewal (Permit) and the draft Negative Declaration**. If approved, the permit renewal will allow the facility to continue its current operations of recycling solvents and increase their authorized maximum storage capacity from 59,400 to 89,650 gallons.



The Rho-Chem facility (subsidiary of PSC) is located at 425 Isis Avenue, City of Inglewood on a 1.1-acre parcel in a predominantly industrial and commercial area (Zone M-1).

This fact sheet contains information on:

- Why a permit is necessary
- What is being proposed in the Draft Permit
- Permit renewal process
- Rho Chem History & Operations
- California Environment Quality Act
- Opportunities for public involvement
- Where to Find Documents

45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: APRIL 7, 2008 TO MAY 21, 2008

Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 21, 2008. Please send your comments to:

Liang Chiang, P.E., Project Manager,
9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
LChiang@dtsc.ca.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

DTSC will hold a **Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on May 7, 2008**, at the Inglewood City Community Hall, One Manchester Blvd., City of Inglewood, CA 90301, to provide information on the draft permit renewal and accept your verbal and written comments.

For information on **accessibility** and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Maya Akula (818) 717-6566 at least one week before the hearing.



WHY A PERMIT IS NECESSARY

A permit enables DTSC to regulate the hazardous waste management activities at facilities. Permits are developed after DTSC's detailed technical review, and are intended to ensure that the facility operates in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

The Draft Permit prepared for Rho-Chem includes the following general and specific requirements for operation of the facility:

- Waste analysis;
- Operation inspections and recording;
- Security;
- Closure procedures with financial responsibility;
- Contingency planning and emergency response procedures;
- Personnel training programs; and,
- Health and safety programs.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT PERMIT

The proposed permit, if approved, would allow the facility to continue its current operations in eight hazardous waste management units and one proposed unit as follows:

1. Four existing container storage/treatment units (Areas A, F, J, and G): Hazardous wastes are stored in 55-gallon or less containers for less than one year. Drum crushing and size reduction activities are also performed in Area A.
2. One Tank storage and treatment unit in Area B: Ten 8,000-gallon above ground tanks are used to store and blend waste solvents.
3. Three solvent recycling units in Area C and Area E: Solvent recycling and purification activities are performed through thin film evaporation, fraction column, and batch distillations. Two 4,000-gallon above ground tanks are used as feeding for the recycling processes.
4. One proposed container (for roll-off bins) storage unit in Area H: 30 cubic feet roll-off bins are used to store solid wastes.

The Permit Renewal proposes to increase the maximum drum storage capacity from the

existing approved 59,400 gallons to 89,650 gallons upon completion of the planned Area H roll-off bin storage area. The facility is not planning to change any other tank storage capacities or treatment capacities. The wastes include halogenated and non-halogenated solvent wastes, universal wastes, and spent lab-packs materials. A complete list of hazardous wastes managed by the facility is available in the draft permit renewal application.

PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS

DTSC examines a permit renewal application through four main steps:

- 1) Reviews the permit renewal application for administrative and technical completeness to ensure it complies with all applicable regulatory standards and requirements.
- 2) DTSC prepares a draft permit, and solicits and receives comments on the permit from the public.
- 3) Considers and responds to all written comments
- 4) Makes a final permit renewal determination to issue, deny or modify the draft permit, and notifies anyone who has submitted written comments or requested notice.

The final permit decision becomes effective 30 days after the decision has been announced, unless a later date is specified or if the permit is appealed.

HISTORY & OPERATIONS

Rho Chem (formerly known as American Better Chemical Company) began its operations about 1953. Initial operations included the bulk storage and distribution of oils, lubricants, and solvents and began recycling waste solvents in 1964. The facility, renamed Rho-Chem Corporation in 1974, added repackaging and distribution of virgin solvents to its operations and continued waste solvent recycling. The facility changed ownership several times. Rho-Chem Corporation, a subsidiary of Philip Services Company, is the current owner and operator. On January 7, 2008, Rho-Chem

informed DTSC that the corporation structure would be changed to limited liability corporation in April 2008.

Rho-Chem recycles halogenated and non-halogenated solvents and is classified as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-equivalent Hazardous Waste Management Facility. In September 1990, DTSC granted a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit which allowed the facility to transfer, treat, and store hazardous waste for 10 years.

On March 28, 2008, Rho-Chem submitted the most current revised Part B (Operation Plan) after several revisions incorporating DTSC's recommendations.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Over the years there have been several enforcement actions at this facility by the Department of Health Services (DTSC's predecessor agency) and DTSC, which have been corrected by the facility. Documentation supporting the enforcement history is available at the DTSC Regional Office in Chatsworth.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

As required by a State law known as CEQA, DTSC studied the possible effects that the proposed permit renewal could have on the environment. DTSC determined that the approval of the draft Permit Renewal for the existing facility and the proposed increase in the storage capacity would not have significant adverse effect on human health or the environment. As a result, a draft Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

DTSC invites community members to review and submit comments on the draft Permit renewal and the draft ND.

Before making a final Permit determination, DTSC will review and respond to all comments submitted during the public comment period. A Response to Comments document will be sent to all individuals who submitted comments and will also be available in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet. DTSC's final decision to approve or deny the draft Permit Renewal will also be made at the same time.

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS

The Administrative Record pertaining to this project is available at:

DTSC Regional Records Room

9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311
Phone: (818) 717-6521

Contact: Vivien Tutaan for an appointment
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the draft Permit Renewal, Permit application, draft ND are available for review at:

Inglewood Public Library

Reference Desk

101 W Manchester Blvd.
Inglewood, California 90301
Phone: (310) 412-5380
Monday-Thursday: 10 am – 8 pm,
Friday: 10 am – 6 pm,
Saturday: 10 am – 6 pm
Sunday: 1 pm – 5 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you any questions about the permit renewal or public hearing, please contact us at:

Liang Chiang, P.E.

Project Manager
(818) 717-6680 or LChiang@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula

Public Participation Specialist
(818) 717-6566 or makula@dtsc.ca.gov
DTSC Toll Free #: 1-866-495-5651, press 3, then press 1

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia

Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573 or JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

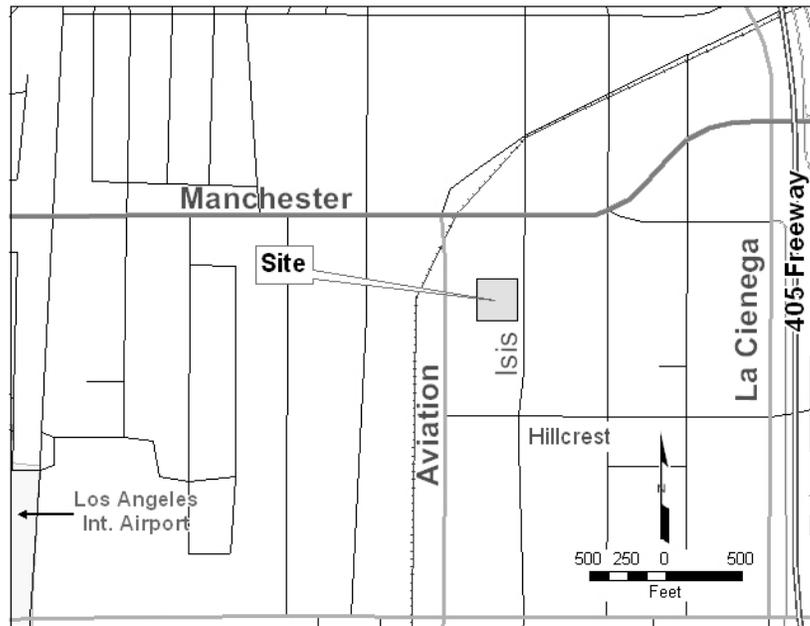
For more information about DTSC, visit our web site: www.dtsc.ca.gov

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS:

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak to Maya Akula at (818) 717-6566.

MEETING ACCESSIBILITY:

For information on room accessibility, or to request reasonable accommodations, please call Ms. Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 717-6566 or toll free at (866) 495-5651, press 3 then press 1 at least one week in advance of the public hearing.



Site Location Map