

**Fact Sheet
January 2004**

Sandia Permit Documents Available for Public Comment



US DEPT OF ENERGY / SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



We, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), have prepared this fact sheet to provide you information about upcoming activities which we oversee at the U.S. Department of Energy/Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) in Livermore, California.

You are invited to review and comment on two documents; a draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) and a proposed Negative Declaration. This fact sheet will explain more about these documents and about how you can give us your input.

Our agency regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. Sandia, located at 7011 East Avenue in Livermore, has submitted an application to us to renew its permit in order to continue to operate its Hazardous Waste Treatment and Storage Facility (Facility). If granted, the Permit would allow Sandia to continue to treat and store hazardous wastes, including those with low levels of radioactivity. The waste is packaged and stored onsite until it is shipped to a permitted offsite disposal facility.

Public Comment Period

Starts: January 26, 2004

Ends: March 10, 2004

If you have comments on the draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit or the proposed Negative Declaration, please send your written comments to:

**Cherry Padilla
DTSC Berkeley Office
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov**

DTSC may hold a public hearing if a hearing is requested. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.



Building 961 (front) and Building 9611 (back building attached)

Sandia is located in Livermore

Sandia is a 413-acre site in Livermore, California, located 45 miles east of San Francisco. The whole Sandia site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). Sandia can be accessed from I-580 through Vasco Road. It is bordered by East Avenue to the north, Tesla Road to the south, Greenville Road to the east and Vasco Road to the west. (A map is on page 6.) It is surrounded on all sides by undeveloped land which serves as a security buffer zone. Within one mile of Sandia are private residences, land used for cattle grazing, vineyards, agricultural land, and an elementary school. The Arroyo Seco, a seasonal stream, is present at the site and runs from southeast to northwest. The South Bay Aqueduct is located between the Sandia boundary and Greenville Road.

Sandia and U.S. Department of Energy are joint operators

The U.S. DOE and Sandia are joint operators of the Facility. Sandia is the prime contractor to the U.S. DOE and does research and development for them in areas such as military technology, energy, manufacturing and environmental technology. Sandia is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Facility, such as analyzing, storing and handling of waste, record keeping, etc. The U.S. DOE is responsible for overseeing the Facility, and making policy, programmatic, funding and scheduling decisions.

The proposed permit would authorize several activities

The Sandia Facility was permitted on January 4, 1993. The conditions and terms of that permit will remain in effect until we either issue or deny the submitted permit renewal. If approved, the permit would authorize the following activities:

1. Allow hazardous waste to be stored and treated at Building 9611, which replaces Building 9622 and its associated storage sheds.
2. Allow low-level mixed wastes to be stored in containers at Building 961.
3. Allow hazardous waste to be stored in containers at Building 9611.
4. Allow similar wastes to be consolidated and commingled in containers at Buildings 961 and 9611.
5. Allow empty drums and contaminated solid wastes, such as rags, to be compacted at Buildings 961 and 9611. (Previously compaction activities were only conducted in Building 961.)
6. Allow contaminated debris from demolition or cleanup activities to be stored in two roll-off bins.
7. Allow contaminated empty drums to be stored in a Conex (a large shipping container).

Hazardous waste may be stored for up to one year from the time it is placed into the hazardous waste storage area. Sandia may ask us for an extension to store mixed waste beyond one year.

The most significant change in the permit is to allow waste to be stored in two roll-off bins and one Conex for up to one year. Previously, waste could only be stored in those containers for 90 days.

The draft Permit does not allow Sandia to receive mixed or hazardous wastes from outside sources.

Hazardous waste is stored in several places

Hazardous waste is stored in two buildings, two 40 cu. yd. roll-off bins, and one Conex (a 40 ft. x 9 ft. x 10 ft. or 40 cu. yd. container), all of which are located in the middle of the Sandia site on 7th Street, between “A” Street and “C” Street. All of Sandia is within a fenced perimeter with 24-hour security and controlled access.

Building 961- Building 961 is a prefabricated metal building 60 ft. x 60 ft. It is only used to store and treat low-level mixed wastes in containers. The building has a sump (a cemented pit) on one side of the building as a backup measure to make sure any potential spills are contained. Empty drums and solid low-level mixed wastes are compacted here prior to being shipped to an appropriate permitted disposal facility. Wastes of similar

types can also be consolidated here. The permit would allow a maximum capacity of 2,244 gallons of waste to be stored here.

Building 9611- Building 9611 is an insulated prefabricated metal building with a covered loading dock adjacent to Building 961. It is 54 ft. x 112 ft. This building is primarily used for storage and treatment of hazardous waste. Inside Building 9611 there are nine storage bays, an area for a magazine (a concrete box used to store certain chemical waste), and an air conditioned Lab Pack Area. Each of the nine storage bays has a separate containment sump to accommodate any potential spills. The permit would allow a maximum of 16,750 gallons of waste to be stored here.

Solid wastes and empty drums are compacted here prior to being shipped to an appropriate permitted disposal facility. Similar types of wastes can also be consolidated here.

“mixed wastes” are hazardous wastes that also have low levels of radioactivity. DTSC only regulates the non-radioactive portion of mixed waste. California Dept. of Health Services regulates the radioactive portion.

Roll-off bins- Two roll-off bins located at the facility yard are used to store contaminated solid waste equipment and solid debris, such as asbestos generated from demolition or cleanup projects within the Sandia site. The permit would allow a maximum of 40 cubic yards of waste to be stored in each roll-off bin.

Conex - One Conex, also located at the facility yard, is used to store empty containers which were used at various research and development laboratories at Sandia. A Conex is a metal shipping container used in ships bound for overseas. The empty containers are picked up by a recycler for reconditioning and recycling. The permit would allow a maximum of 20 cubic yards of waste to be stored here.

Sandia generates different kinds of hazardous waste

Sandia generates different kinds of hazardous waste during its operation and maintenance activities. Some examples include: used coolants and solvents, empty aerosol cans, asbestos and PCB cleanup waste, lead contaminated wastewater from the gun range, wastewater from the Liquid Effluent Control System which did not meet the municipal wastewater discharge requirements, used batteries, acids, caustics, oily wastes, solvent contaminated rags and wipes, photochemical wastes, empty drums and other laboratory wastes. These wastes fall into three categories:

- Some wastes we regulate per federal standards. We refer to this category as RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) waste. Examples of RCRA waste include used solvents and lead contaminated wastewater.
- Some wastes are considered California only waste, not federal. These are called non-RCRA California only wastes. They include asbestos and used batteries.

- Sandia also produces low-level mixed waste, which is hazardous waste contaminated with low levels of radioactivity.

Both liquid and solid mixed wastes are stored in sealed containers that conform to U.S. Department of Transportation standards. The containers are usually 55-gallon or 30-gallon drums, or special lead-lined metal boxes for low-level mixed wastes.

We reviewed their proposed permit and assessed potential hazards

We reviewed how Sandia plans to continue monitoring, handling, and storing hazardous waste to determine whether there could be a hazard to human health or the environment. We found that the wastes could not come into contact with people during normal operation. They are placed and sealed in drums at the point of generation. They are then moved to storage areas where the containers remain sealed until compaction, consolidation, or shipment to an offsite permitted disposal facility. Containers are inspected weekly.

We analyzed the effect of chemicals escaping to the air or soil due to fire or explosion. Building 961 and Building 9611 have sprinkler systems that are activated in case of fire. The storage areas have backup systems for liquid spills that would prevent liquids from leaving the designated area.

We also analyzed the possibility of chemicals being released into the air. We found that the chemicals listed in Sandia's "Facilities and Safety Information Document" are in small amounts; they would not pose a significant risk to human health or the environment. Wastes stored in Building 961 and Building 9611 are also in low concentrations and would not pose a risk either.

We looked at the effects this permit may have on the environment

DTSC conducted a study to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed permit. This study, called a Special Initial Study, is required by the California Environmental Quality Act. We examined 16 categories of environmental impacts that could potentially be affected by the storage and treatment activities. Some examples of these categories include air quality, water quality, geology and soils, noise, transportation etc. After examining each category, we determined that hazardous waste treatment and storage operations at Sandia will not have an adverse effect on any of the resource areas examined. Our evaluation is written in a document called the Proposed Negative Declaration. This document, along with the Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, is available for public review and comment.

We and other agencies regulate activities at Sandia

DTSC regulates the generation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste. We oversee the operation of hazardous and mixed waste storage facilities, such as the one at Sandia. We also conduct periodic inspections of the Sandia hazardous waste treatment and storage area. Our last inspection, which was on December 19, 2002, showed that the facility was in compliance with all hazardous waste regulations.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. DOE and the California State Department of Health Services regulate the radioactive portion of mixed waste, such as the mixed waste covered by this permit. Sandia uses radioactive materials for research purposes only.

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulates the packaging and transportation of the hazardous waste to the permitted disposal facilities.

You can review documents at the library and in our office

You can review the following documents at the two locations listed below:

- The Part A and Part B permit application
- The Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
- The CEQA Special Initial Study and
- The Proposed Negative Declaration

Civic Center Library
1000 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, California 94550
(925) 373-5500

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710-2721
(510) 540-3800

Who to contact for more information

For more information about the site, please call or email:

Cherry Padilla, Project Manager
(510) 540-3967
email: cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov

Lora Barrett, Public Participation Specialist
Toll-free at (866) 495-5651
email: lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries please contact:

Angela Blanchette, Public Information Officer
(510) 540-3732
email: ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

You are invited to send us your comments

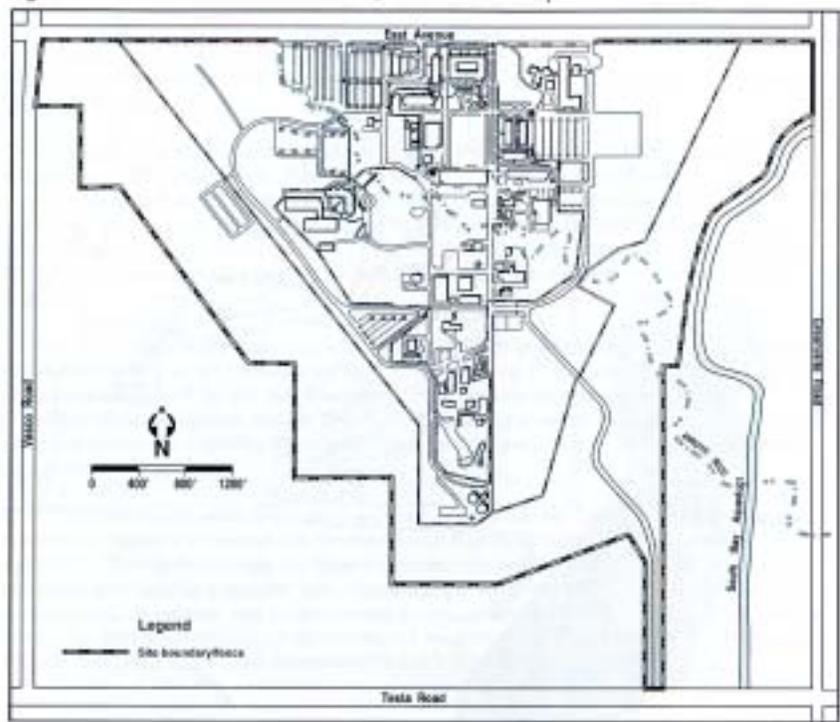
You may submit written comments by mail or email. Send written comments, postmarked or emailed **no later than March 10, 2004**, to:

Cherry Padilla
DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
Email: cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov

All comments received will be considered before a final decision is made and commentors will be mailed a written response.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:

TDD users can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach the Public Participation Specialist Lora Barrett at (866) 495-5651.



Sandia location map

Mailing List Coupon

If you have any comments concerning the Sandia Facility or if you would like to be put on the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Lora Barrett, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

Fax Number: