



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, October 2007

The Draft Permit for Shell Refinery in Martinez is available for your review

A draft permit that would allow Shell Oil Products in Martinez to continue operating a storage tank and boilers that burn fuel gases and hazardous waste is open for public review and comment.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this draft permit for the Shell refinery's hazardous waste storage and treatment operations at the Shell Refinery, 3485 Pacheco Boulevard.

DTSC invites you to review this Draft Permit and send us your comments. We also invite you to comment on the proposed Negative Declaration prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (please see page 2 for details). You are also invited to attend our public hearing. Please see the box below for more details.

Facility description and location

The Shell Martinez Refinery is an oil refining complex on 1,000 acres. The facility began at this location in 1914. Its operations include light oil processing which yields primarily gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuels. Operations also include heavy oil processing which yields marine fuel oils, asphalt and coke products. The facility is currently permitted to operate a double-walled, carbon steel storage tank (Tank 12038) and three carbon monoxide boilers (boilers) to store and utilize hazardous wastes. The current permit was issued in 1995. Shell submitted its application to renew its permit in 2005. After review of the renewal application, DTSC prepared the Draft Permit that is the subject of this comment period.

Public Comment Period

October 1, 2007 through November 14, 2007

Please send your comments to Waqar Ahmad, Project Manager at DTSC, 700 Heinz Street, Berkeley CA 94710. You can also submit comments by e-mail to WAhmad@dtsc.ca.gov. The Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit and Proposed Negative Declaration are available at several locations for public review.

Public Hearing

DTSC will hold a public hearing to accept public comments on:

DATE: November 1, 2007
TIME: 6:30 pm
PLACE: Las Juntas Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room
4105 Pacheco Blvd., Martinez, CA 94553



Boiler description

The three boilers are of identical design. The boilers burn three fuels and one liquid waste that are described below:

1. Catalytic Cracker Unit regenerator off gas, a fuel containing carbon monoxide, feeds continuously into the boilers.
2. Flexicoker gas, a fuel containing carbon monoxide, is sometimes burned in the boilers.
3. Refinery fuel gas, a common refinery fuel similar to natural gas, is produced in the refinery and is burned in the boilers.
4. Liquid waste, primarily a mixture of about 95% water and 5 % or less solids is divided among the three boilers. In a typical year, this waste is less than 1 % of the total fuel used in the boilers.

All three boilers operate continuously. Each is equipped with an air emission control device that collects particles from the flowing gas going up the flue. Shell bags the particles and sends them to a disposal facility as hazardous waste. Shell monitors several operation factors, such as waste feed flow rate, firebox temperature, and firebox pressure.

Trial burn

DTSC's regulations required Shell to conduct a trial burn, under DTSC oversight, for Boiler #2 to show the ability of the combustion system to meet the required emission and performance standards. A second objective of the trial burn was to develop data on stack emissions for use in conducting the health risk assessment. In order to achieve these objectives, Shell conducted the trial burn under three distinct operating conditions in 2006, and each condition was run three times.

Shell submitted its trial burn findings and the results demonstrated that the boiler destroyed and removed over 99.99 percent of the principal hazardous chemical (chlorobenzene). This result met the DTSC requirement that these units achieve a Destruction and Removal Efficiency of 99.99 percent or higher.



Tank 12038 on the right; the three boilers on the left.

Human Health Risk Assessment

On October 30, 2006 Shell submitted a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) report to DTSC, which analyzed the risk to human health from the combustion of hazardous waste. This report showed that predicted cancer risk, chronic and acute non-cancer risks for all off-site people are below established state levels of concern.

DTSC evaluated the environmental effects of proposed permit

DTSC has prepared an Initial Study and a proposed Negative Declaration for this permit renewal project under CEQA. DTSC has determined that this permit renewal does not have significant impacts on the environment.

We inspect to make sure Shell follows the permit

For the annual inspections for the years 2000 through 2006, DTSC found only minor violations that were corrected in a timely manner. These violations did not result in any enforcement actions.

You can participate in our permitting activities

During this 45-day public comment period on the Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit and proposed Negative Declaration, you may review the Draft Permit, and other documents at the following information repository:

Martinez Public Library
Reference Desk
740 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 646-2898
DTSC will also post the Draft Permit and
Negative Declaration on the DTSC web site,
<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>.

The full administrative record is available at:

DTSC Berkeley Office
700 Heinz Ave., Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710

Please call (510) 540-3800 to contact Lule Varela
for appointment.

DTSC will make the final decision on the Haz-
ardous Waste Facility Permit only after public
comments have been received and considered.
DTSC will also prepare a response to all comments
received and mail a copy of our responses to each
person who submitted comments. We will also
keep one in each of the repositories, and post a
copy on our website.

You may contact us if you have questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please con-
tact the following staff:

Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710

(510) 540-3932 or Wahmad@dtsc.ca.gov

Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Toll-free (866) 495-5651 (please follow the
prompts to the Sacramento office and to Nathan
Schumacher) or Nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please contact:

Angela Blanchette, Public Information Officer
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3732 or Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Mailing list

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail
and would like to be put on the mailing list,
please contact Nathan Schumacher by phone at
(866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3650 or by e-mail
at Nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov. You also may mail him
at DTSC, Attn: Nathan Schumacher,
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:

TDD users can obtain additional information
about the Shell Oil Martinez facility by using
the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378.
Ask them to reach Nathan Schumacher at
(916) 255-3650 about the Shell Martinez Refinery.