

**Fact Sheet
November
2003**

Public to Comment on Intent to Terminate Interim Status for Sierra Army Depot Herlong, California



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

FACT SHEET / PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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



Why am I receiving this Fact Sheet?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing this fact sheet to inform you that Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) has withdrawn their Part B Applications for Open Burn (OB), Open Detonation (OD), Deactivation Furnace and Storage of Hazardous Wastes. As a result of this withdrawal, DTSC intends to terminate SIAD's current Interim Status to operate hazardous waste treatment units. This fact sheet has been prepared to notify you of the 45-Day Public Comment Period on the intent to terminate SIAD's Interim Status authority to operate hazardous waste treatment units.

What this fact sheet tells you:

- Overall site history and background
- What it means to terminate interim status
- What is next? (Closure Activities)
- DTSC's role and responsibilities
- How you can participate in the process

45-Day Comment Period

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Termination of Sierra Army Depot's Interim Status authority for the treatment of hazardous waste. DTSC will conduct a 45-Day Public Comment Period which begins on November 25, 2003 and ends on January 09, 2004. DTSC is not planning to hold a public hearing at this time; however, interested parties may request one. A public hearing will be scheduled at a later date when DTSC and SIAD conduct a 45-day comment period for SIAD's proposed Closure Plan. A public hearing request may be sent to Ms. Lorraine Larsen-Hallock at the address below and must be received by the close of the public comment period. DTSC will accept written comments on the intent to terminate Interim Status for SIAD until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, January 09, 2004. After careful consideration and responding to all those who made comments, DTSC will issue its final decision on the intent to terminate Interim Status for SIAD.

Mail written comments to:
DTSC, Attn: Ms. Lorraine Larsen-Hallock, Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200
or via E-mail: llarsenh@dtsc.ca.gov

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

History of SIAD Permit

Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) is located in Herlong, California, 45 miles southeast of Susanville, California and 55 miles northwest of Reno, Nevada, along U.S. Highway 395. SIAD comprises over 96,000 acres which are divided into three areas: the Main Depot; Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) areas; and Honey Lake.

SIAD operated as a military munitions storage, maintenance, and treatment facility for several decades. In 1976, the President of the United States signed into law the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This law required facilities that stored, treated or disposed of hazardous waste in California to apply to DTSC to continue operations. In the meantime until a permit decision was made by DTSC, facilities were given Interim Status to continue their operations.

SIAD has operated under Interim Status since 1980 to treat hazardous waste munitions in the existing OB/OD and deactivation furnace treatment unit. Numerous steps were taken during the permit process including the following:

- 1988 SIAD submitted an initial Part B Permit Application as required to continue their hazardous waste OB/OD treatment operations;
- 1994 a Part B Permit Application was submitted to DTSC for the operation of the deactivation furnace;
- May 1995 deactivation furnace was certified closed for hazardous waste treatment;
- 1997 subsequent Part B Permit Application revisions were submitted to DTSC;
- 1998 a Part B Permit Application was submitted to DTSC for Building 380 Container Storage;
- October 1999 DTSC presented the resulting draft permit and draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) for public comment; and
- 2001/02 Permit application process was delayed due to a lawsuit against SIAD and the subsequent settlement between parties.

Why is SIAD's Interim Status to operate their hazardous waste treatment units being terminated?

In May 2003 Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) notified the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) that it had withdrawn its Part B application for the Open Burn, Open Detonation, Deactivation Furnace, and Storage of hazardous wastes and that it intended to initiate closure activities. As a result of SIAD's withdrawal of its permit application, DTSC is proceeding with the intent to terminate SIAD's Interim Status pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.73(a).

What is a Closure Plan?

Closure is the process that a waste facility must undergo after the facility (or a portion of that facility) ceases operation. A hazardous waste facility owner or operator must prepare a Closure Plan that identifies the steps the facility intends to implement in order to complete closure. Typical steps that are conducted during closure of a treatment, storage, or disposal facility include removal of wastes and equipment, confirmation soil sampling; and any soil removal or other cleanup actions that are required to achieve closure.

What is next?

The intent to terminate Interim Status is processed by following procedures for a permit denial, which includes this fact sheet, distribution of a public notice in the local area newspapers, and a 45-day public comment period. Closure of the OB/OD units will be required as a result of the Interim Status termination. SIAD will be required to submit a closure plan to DTSC within 15 days of Interim Status termination. The effective date of the termination of Interim Status is the end of this 45-day comment period, and after consideration of any comments received.

How you can participate

Upon receipt of the closure plan, DTSC will implement procedures for closure including

several mandated public participation activities:

- DTSC and SIAD will hold at a minimum two (2) hearings to discuss the closure plan and California Environmental Quality Act documents with the community and interested parties;
- A 45-day comment period will be issued and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the closure plan considered for SIAD; and
- A fact sheet and public notice will go out to community and local media.

Upon termination of Interim Status, SIAD will be required to apply to DTSC for an “emergency permit” on a case-by-case basis if SIAD has an emergency situation that calls for OB/OD activities.

Who will make sure SIAD is in compliance with all laws and regulations?

DTSC oversees hazardous waste management activities conducted at the SIAD. DTSC’s role is to make sure SIAD complies with local, state, and federal standards and protects public health and the environment.

Where can I find more information?

DTSC’s letter to SIAD stating that it intends to terminate SIAD’s Interim Status can be reviewed at these locations:

Reno Main Library

301 S. Center Street
Reno, Nevada 98501
Phone: (775) 785-4190

Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Susanville Public Library

1618 Main Street
Susanville, California 96130
Phone: (530) 251-8127

SIAD Herlong Community Library

2067 California Street
Herlong, California 96113
Hours: Tuesday & Thurs. 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
Ms. Lorraine Larsen-Hallock, Project Manager
(916) 255-3578

File Room:

Mon-Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
by appointment (916) 255-3758.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Response to Comments Submitted as Part of the 1999 Draft Permit / dEIR Process.

As a result of SIAD’s withdrawal of its permit application, DTSC has discontinued its work otherwise required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will not finalize the Draft Environmental Impact Report. In accordance with CEQA statute and Guidelines, California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 2.6, Section 21080(b)(5), CEQA is not applicable to the termination of interim status. As a result of SIAD’s withdrawal of their permit applications and DTSC’s subsequent termination of SIAD’s Interim Status, all public comments submitted as part of the 1999 public review period are no longer applicable and do not require individual response. This public fact sheet serves as the response to all comments received during the 1999 draft permit / draft EIR public comment period. The closure process will include additional CEQA requirements.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Trotter at 916-255-6441.

For More Information

If you would like more information or have questions on the Interim Status Termination, please contact Ms. Lorraine Larsen-Hallock, DTSC, Project Manager at (916) 255-3578 or Mr. David Holsey, Project Manager, SIAD at (530) 827-4381. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-6441. For media questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC, Public Information Officer, at (916) 324-0936.

Mailing List

If you have any comments concerning SIAD 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 Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC Participation Specialist, 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: _____
Comments: _____



Department of Toxic Substances Control
Attn: Michelle Trotter
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Inside:

The public is invited to comment on the intent to terminate Interim Status for Sierra Army Depot.