



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Responds to Appeals of NASNI Hazardous Waste Permit

SACRAMENTO -- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has accepted one appeal and denied three other appeals of its decision to issue a permit renewal and modification to the United States Navy for its hazardous waste treatment and storage units at Naval Air Station, North Island (NASNI).

The hazardous waste permit issued by DTSC, became effective on January 5, 1998, and allows NASNI to continue its existing storage and treatment operations with some changes, including an increase in the amount of hazardous waste that may be stored in the permitted storage units.

Appeals on this permit were filed by the Environmental Health Coalition, two residents of Coronado and the Navy. DTSC granted the appeal which was filed by the Navy, but denied the other three appeals since none of the issues raised by these appellants met the legal criteria for appealing a hazardous waste facility permit decision.

The appeal granted by DTSC was the Navy's request that DTSC review a condition in the permit which prohibits NASNI from continuing to operate its existing 90-day accumulation area for onsite hazardous wastes.

Several of the issues identified in the three denied appeals were based upon the appealees' impression that this permit is necessary for enabling the Navy to proceed with its plans to homeport nuclear aircraft carriers (CVNs) at NASNI, which in recent years has been the subject of much public interest and concern in the Coronado area. However, as DTSC explains in its response to these appeals, this permit is not associated with the CVN homeporting project.

NASNI which has been in operation since 1917, stores and treats industrial and oily hazardous wastes generated by various NASNI operations and the aircraft carriers docked at NASNI. Additionally, about four percent of the hazardous wastes stored and treated at NASNI come from other naval activities in the area. These hazardous wastes are generated by activities such as electroplating, aircraft, vehicle and facility maintenance, painting, degreasing, oil/water separation and other miscellaneous cleaning activities. The new permit does not change the types of hazardous waste stored and treated at NASNI which include acids, bases, solvents, PCBs, reactives, oily wastewater, and metal bearing wastes.

DTSC will issue a public notice in the near future announcing its decision to grant the

Navy's request for review of this permit condition, the dates for the briefing period, and the address for submitting written arguments during the briefing period.

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