



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Department Approves Mixed Waste Permit for NASNI

SACRAMENTO -- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has approved a permit for the U.S. Navy to build and operate a mixed hazardous waste facility at Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI). Construction of the facility is anticipated to take six months.

The facility will be located within a new Depot Maintenance Facility complex at NASNI and will be operated by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard staff. The Depot Maintenance Facility was constructed to perform maintenance and support on nuclear aircraft carriers to be homeported at NASNI.

The permit authorizes storage of 5,500 gallons of mixed waste. No treatment of mixed wastes is allowed under the permit. The mixed wastes are generated during maintenance of nuclear aircraft carriers at NASNI and submarines at Point Loma.

"This permit will enable the Navy to construct and operate the facility safely," said Jesse Huff, DTSC Director. "The facility will be used to store mixed waste generated from general maintenance of nuclear powered vessels."

Under the permit mixed waste is defined as 15 specific waste streams. Eighty percent (80%) of the mixed waste stored at the facility will consist of rags and metal parts. The remaining twenty percent (20%) will consist of liquids, stored in plastic containers within sealed fire retardant plastic bags, and within drums. Drums with liquids will not be allowed to be doubled stacked.

The building will be equipped with heat sensors, fire alarms and sprinkler systems. It will be designed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code and will be able to withstand maximum earthquakes of 7.0 on the Richter scale. The floor of the building will be coated with an epoxy coating forming an impervious barrier to liquids in the event of a spill.

Naval Air Station North Island, first commissioned in 1917, is located at the northern end of the peninsula that forms the San Diego Bay, adjoining the City of Coronado. NASNI provides services and material support to fleet helicopters, jet aircraft squadrons, and aircraft carriers.

With the issuance of the permit, DTSC remains committed to addressing the community's informational needs, including the Navy's mandatory notification to the City upon any release at the NASNI facility.

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