



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Consent Order issued for violations at Lawrence Livermore National Lab

BERKELEY – In an ongoing effort to ensure compliance with hazardous waste management laws regarding the handling and treatment of hazardous waste, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a \$31,500 Consent Order with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for combining incompatible wastes in a five gallon container that generated nitrous oxide gases. The Consent Order resolves violations revealed during DTSC inspections at the lab in May and June of 2004.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, located at 7000 East Avenue in Livermore, is an applied science laboratory that is part of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). LLNL has been managed since its inception in 1952 by the University of California for the U.S. government.

Generally, hazardous waste is characterized as ignitable, toxic, explosive or reactive. Generators of hazardous waste are responsible for appropriate characterization, storage and possible treatment. DTSC requires compliance with regulations regarding the treatment and storage of these wastes to prevent accidents and potential releases.

Under the Consent Order, DOE and the University of California are required to pay a fine of \$31,500, of which \$22,912 is an administrative penalty and \$8,588 is reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC. A copy of the Order formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

In addition to the combining incompatible waste, the facility was also cited for:

- Shipping untreated hazardous waste offsite that did not meet land disposal restrictions, and certifying that it did meet treatment standards for land disposal
- Failing to make an accurate characterization of hazardous waste to comply with land disposal restriction requirements
- Storing hazardous waste for more than one year without proper authorization

All of the violations listed in the Consent Order have been corrected.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.