



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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DTSC Orders Kettleman Facility to Clean Up PCB Contamination

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today ordered California's only facility permitted to dispose of PCBs to clean up contamination resulting from a release discovered in February this year.

The Corrective Action Order issued by DTSC requires the owners of Chemical Waste Management's facility in Kettleman City to find the extent of and remove the contamination. It was discovered at their PCB handling operation during routine investigations and inspections by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and DTSC.

Because the release is a violation of federal and state standards, DTSC and U.S. EPA will provide joint oversight of the cleanup. "By issuing this order DTSC is taking steps to ensure the comprehensive cleanup of any and all PCB contamination at the Kettleman facility to ensure public safety," said DTSC Assistant Deputy Director Ray Leclerc.

Chemical Waste Management has taken initial steps to begin cleaning up the spill, under U.S. EPA's federal authority. However DTSC is issuing an order to ensure the cleanup occurs to meet California's higher standards. DTSC expects that the removal of contamination should be complete within 30 days of the order being issued.

Once this process is complete, Chemical Waste Management must prepare a summary report that shows what has been done and examine the risk associated with any PCB contamination or residuals that were not removed. DTSC will evaluate this report, and provide the community and the public an opportunity to review the findings and comment on their adequacy.

PCBs are a toxic mixture of chemicals, banned since the 1970s. They were once used in transformers and other electrical equipment. PCBs can be toxic to the liver and skin, and have been linked to cancer.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.