

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212

Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Permitting Division

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, California 95826

Project Title: EMERGENCY PERMIT FOR TREATMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE, NAVAL AIR FACILITY (NAF) BOMBING RANGE, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

Project Location: 1065 3rd Street, Building 139, NAF El Centro, California, 92273

County: Imperial County

Project Applicant: Thomas Edmunds, Hazardous Waste Program Manager

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Emergency Permit

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to authority granted under California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 20, Section 66270.61, has issued an Emergency Permit to NAF El Centro (EPA IDs# CA7170090016 and CA6170090017) to treat hazardous waste through open detonation. Specifically, one damaged .22 caliber live round, two 2.75" rocket warhead, and one rocket motor. No alternative treatment to detonation is available.

The hazardous waste items are currently being stored at the Naval Air Station North Island (EPA ID CA7070090016) in San Diego, California. DTSC has determined as a safety precaution to prevent an accident or severe injury, an Emergency Permit should be issued to treat the hazardous waste at the nearest safe location, which has been determined to be at NAF El Centro's Bombing Range.

DTSC has determined as a safety precaution to prevent an accident or severe injury, an Emergency Permit should be issued to treat the hazardous waste at the safest location nearby, which has been determined to be at NAF El Centro's Bombing Range (EPA ID# CA6170090017).

Background: The one .22 caliber live round, two 2.75" rocket warhead, and one rocket motor contain explosive materials. When explosive materials are damaged or degrade, such as within expired products, the explosives become increasingly unstable. Unstable explosives can unpredictably detonate when improperly handled, making expired explosive materials hazardous. Detonation is the recommended treatment for expired explosives.

Treatment will be performed at the NAF El Centro on an active Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training range area. The range is a secure and secluded military facility designed for this use. The range is in a remote area and the nearest residential community is eight miles away. NAF El Centro is a secure government installation, and no unauthorized personnel are allowed on the Base property. During operations, the range facility is secure, and any surrounding activities are monitored.

Project Activities: The treatment of hazardous waste involves the addition of other explosives to trigger detonation of the waste explosives. Only EOD trained specialists will be managing the material. Movement, preparation, and treatment of the items will be in accordance with established military procedures. The area shall be inspected after treatment to ensure there is no release of hazardous waste from the area. Any untreated waste will be immediately re-treated by repeated detonation, as deemed necessary.

Within ten (10) business days of the expiration of this permit, NAF El Centro will submit a final report, signed in accordance with Title 22, California Code of Regulations section 66270.11(d). The report shall include certification that the treatment area has been cleared of all residual hazardous waste generated from this emergency treatment and all generated waste has been responsibly managed.

The Emergency Permit is effective beginning September 1, 2023, and shall expire on November 30, 2023.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of the Navy, Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro

Exempt Status: Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); 14 CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This action is necessary to prevent an emergency and mitigate the impact of detonation.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
Matthew Mullinax	Hazardous Substances Engineer	916-255-6531

Approver's Signature:

Matthew Mullinax

Date:

September 1, 2023

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
Matthew Mullinax	Hazardous Substances Engineer	916-255-6531

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: