

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 Management of Hazardous Waste, Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), Edwards AFB, California

Project Location: Air Force Research Lab (AFRL)/Experimental Demonstration Branch (RQRO), Test Area 1-36D, Pad 1 Edwards AFB, California 93524

County: Kern

Project Applicant: Captain Martin Ssenyonjo, Area 1-32/36 Lead/Project 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 (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 20, Sec. 66270.61, has issued an Emergency Permit to the Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), (EPA ID# CA1570024504) to treat hazardous waste through open burning. Specifically, up to 37,500 pounds of unburned propellant fragments must be stabilized because of the reactive/explosive nature of the material rather than be transported to the permitted Edwards AFB Open Burning and Open Detonation (OB/OD) Range for disposal.

These items are considered a hazardous waste item because they are not safe for transport and are currently located at the Edwards AFB in Edwards AFB, 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 the remote Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) 1-36 area of Edwards AFB.

Background:

The unburned propellant fragments contain explosive materials. When explosive materials degrade, such as within expired products, the explosives become increasingly unstable. Unstable explosives

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can unpredictably detonate when improperly managed, making expired explosive materials hazardous. Detonation is the recommended treatment for expired explosives.

Treatment will be performed at the Edwards AFB in the remote ARFL 1-36 area. This area is controlled and limited to authorized personnel only and is not accessible to the public. The nearest town is the City of Boron, approximately four miles away.

Project Activities:

The treatment of the hazardous waste involves the addition of other explosives to trigger detonation of the waste explosives. Only Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) trained specialists will be handling the material. Movement, preparation, and treatment of the items will be in accordance with established 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 necessary.

Within 10 business days of the expiration of this permit, Edwards AFB will submit a final report, signed in accordance with Title 22, CCR Sec. 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 properly managed. The Emergency Permit is effective beginning May 6, 2024 and shall expire on August 1, 2024.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Edwards AFB

Exempt Status: Emergency Project Public Resources Code (PRC), Sec. 21080(b)(4); 14 CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This action is necessary to prevent an emergency. Open burning of the propellant fragments is necessary to prevent accidental fire and/or explosion during transport to an authorized hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

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

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

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
Parisa Khosraviani	Hazardous Substances Engineer	(916) 255-6559

Approver's Signature:

Date:

Parisa Khosraviani

May 6, 2024

TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS (OPR) ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: