

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
State Clearinghouse Permitting Division
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212 8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with § 21108 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title: Chemical Waste Management Inc., Kettleman Hills Facility (KHF), Approval of a Class 1* Permit Modification

State Clearinghouse Number: 2005041064

Project Location: 35251 Old Skyline Road, Kettleman City, CA 93239

County: Kings

Project Applicant: Chemical Waste Management, Inc.

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to authority granted under Division 4.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 20 prepared an Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) to evaluate activities associated with the Class 1* Permit Modification (Permit Modification) request pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5 for Chemical Waste Management Inc., Kettleman Hills Facility (KHF). The purpose of the Addendum is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the activities proposed in the Permit Modification, and to provide a substantial evidentiary basis for DTSC's determination that the newly proposed activities in the Permit Modification request do not represent "significant new information" that would require a Supplemental or Subsequent Environmental Impact Report prepared by DTSC. (See 14 Cal. Code Regs., §§ 15088.5, 15162-15164.)

The Permit Modification will update analytical methods used by independent California-certified labs to analyze KHF groundwater, leachate, and other samples to the latest analytical method versions and will modify the next 5-year Constituent of Concern sampling event schedule for the site to allow samples to be taken during the third quarter of 2025 instead of the fourth quarter of 2025. The Addendum was prepared for this Permit Modification and follows the previous Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) completed in 2009 (State Clearinghouse Number 2005041064), for a Conditional Use Permit issued by Kings County, as well as a May 2013 Addendum prepared for

a permit modification request to DTSC that allowed for a phased build-out of the B-18 Landfill (the 2009 SEIR and the 2013 Addendum are collectively referred to as the SEIR). There are no proposed construction nor operational changes and no ground disturbing activities proposed by the KHF. DTSC has determined that the updated analytical methodology will keep monitoring for constituents of concern at the site up to date, and that the change in 5-year sampling date from the fourth quarter of 2025 to the third quarter would not constitute significant new information requiring additional environmental review beyond the Addendum prepared.

Background: The KHF is an active hazardous waste transfer, treatment, storage, and disposal facility that contains several active, inactive, and closed Class I hazardous waste management units as well as Class II/III (nonhazardous) solid waste landfills. Chemical Waste Management, Inc. (CWMI) has operated the facility since 1979. The KHF is located in rural western Kings County, in the Kettleman Hills, approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Kettleman City. The KHF borders the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and is approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Kettleman City, 6.5 miles southeast of the city of Avenal, and about 2.5 miles west of Interstate I-5. The KHF is located on an approximately 1,600-acre property in which 695.5 acres are permitted for management of federal and state-listed hazardous waste and municipal solid and designated wastes. Of the 695.5 acres within the current Facility, 541 acres are within the fenced KHF operational area. The KHF consists of various existing hazardous waste management units at the site as well as the other significant structures/facilities at the site (e.g., non-hazardous solid waste landfills, stormwater basins, and operations support facilities). The KHF accepts most hazardous waste, as defined by California Code of Regulations, title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 11. Wastes that arrive at KHF in bulk and containerized shipments may be in the form of liquids, semi-solids, and/or solids.

This Permit Modification will not have a significant effect on any aspect of the environment. All other activities will continue to be consistent with the Conditional Use Permit No. 05-10 (CUP) for the B-8/B-20 Landfill as analyzed in the 2009 SEIR and subsequent CEQA documentation. There are no anticipated operational changes proposed and no proposed ground disturbing activities or construction. This Permit Modification will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts on the environment.

As a Responsible Agency under CEQA, DTSC considered the SEIR prepared by Kings County and exercised its independent judgment in review of the Permit Modification request. DTSC concluded that a CEQA Addendum was appropriate and approved the above-described project on June 16, 2025, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of project approval by DTSC.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA by DTSC.

