



Fact Sheet

Public Hearing for Continued Operation of a Bioreactor in the Non-Hazardous Waste Portion of the B-19 Landfill at the Chemical Waste Management, Inc. Facility in Kings County

What is this about?

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) is a state agency responsible for protecting California waters from pollution. The Regional Water Board is holding a public hearing to consider a permit that would allow Chemical Waste Management, Inc. (CWMI) to continue adding non-hazardous liquids to a bioreactor in the non-hazardous waste portion of the B-19 landfill at the Kettleman Hills Facility (facility). The facility lies 3.5 miles south of Kettleman City in Kings County.

Public hearing

The Board began this hearing on the bioreactor permit, also known as Waste Discharge Requirements, in Rancho Cordova on August 4, 2011. At the hearing the Board took testimony and public comments on the proposed permit, and at its discretion decided to continue the hearing in Kettleman City to allow local residents that could not attend the hearing in Rancho Cordova to provide comments.

Continuation of the August 4, 2011 hearing is scheduled for:

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Time: To begin at 4 p.m.
Location: Kettleman City Elementary School Cafeteria
701 General Petroleum Avenue
Kettleman City, CA

What is a bioreactor?

A **bioreactor** is the process of adding non-hazardous liquids to a non-hazardous waste landfill to speed up the breakdown of garbage. CWMI operates a bioreactor in the non-hazardous waste portion of the B-19 Landfill at the facility. Bioreactors are considered to be “research, development and demonstration” (RD&D) projects and are subject to state and federal regulations for landfills that prohibit waste constituents that could impact groundwater quality or affect human health or the environment from leaking through the landfill’s containment system.

Information about the permit

The current three-year permit expires on September 15, 2011. CWMI has requested to continue operation of the bioreactor project for an additional three years. The proposed permit would allow CWMI to continue operating the bioreactor for three additional years provided the project complies with state and federal regulations. In the three years that the bioreactor has been operating there has been no identified violation of applicable state or federal regulations applicable to the bioreactor.

More Information

A packet of technical documents on this issue, including the Board’s Order to be considered at this hearing and responses to comments received so far, are available in both Spanish and English upon request. Please contact James Dowdall (for English) at (559) 445-5108 or Jorge Baca (for Spanish) at (559) 445-6076 if you or someone you know would like a copy of the information packet.