

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

2020030918

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: EMERGENCY PERMIT FOR TREATMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE, IBM ALAMEDAN RESEARCH CENTER, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Project Location: 650 Harry Road, San Jose, California 95120

County: Santa Clara County

Project Applicant: IBM Almaden Research Center

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 the IBM Almaden Research Center, (EPA ID# CAD980883292) to treat hazardous waste through a controlled reaction with a chemical solution. Specifically, Tetrahydrofuran (23 1-Liter containers and one 1 2-Liter container), Ethyl Vinyl Ether (one 250-milliliter container), 2-Methyltetrahydrofuran (one 100-milliliter container), Diethyl Ether (one 1-Liter container and one 4-Liter container), Tert-Butyl Methyl Ether (one 1-Liter container), 4-Methyl-2-Pentanol (one 4-Liter container), 2,2 Dimethoxypropane (one 25-milliliter container), Poly (Ethylene Glycol) Diacrylate (two 100-milliliter containers), 2-Methoxyethyl Acetate (one 1-Liter container), Methyl Methacrylate (one 500-milliliter container), Methyl Chloroacrylate (one 25-milliliter container), and Benzoyl Peroxide (one 100-milliliter container).

This chemical is currently being stored at IBM Almaden Research Center located at 650 Harry Road, San Jose, California 95120. DTSC has determined as a safety precaution to prevent an accident or severe injury, an Emergency Permit should be issued to chemically stabilize the hazardous waste prior to storage and eventual transportation off-site by Clean Harbors Environmental Services (CHES).

Background: Tetrahydrofuran, Ethyl Vinyl Ether, 2-Methyltetrahydrofuran, Diethyl Ether, Tert-Butyl Methyl Ether, 4-Methyl-2-Pentanol, 2,2 Dimethoxypropane, Poly (Ethylene Glycol) Diacrylate, 2-Methoxyethyl Acetate, Methyl Methacrylate, and Methyl Chloroacrylate are peroxide forming materials. The peroxides produced may be unstable at relatively low concentrations, resulting in fire and/or explosion if improperly handled. Benzoyl Peroxide is a shock sensitive material. External energy input may cause complete or partial detonation of the material, making transport of non-stabilized chemicals. Further instability can be introduced as the chemical and/or the storage container degrades (i.e. after the product's expiration date). Chemical stabilization is recommended prior to transport to a permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

Project Activities: The treatment of the hazardous waste involves the addition of solution to the containers in a controlled manner to reduce the reactive or ignitable characteristics of expired chemicals. Treatment will take place within a designated exclusion zone. Only technicians from CHES will be allowed in the exclusion zone. Movement, preparation, and treatment of the containers will be in accordance with established standards.

Within 10 business days of the expiration of this permit, IBM Almaden Research Center 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 properly managed.

The Emergency Permit is effective beginning April 2, 2020 and shall expire on June 1, 2020.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Clean Harbors Environmental Services

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

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This action is necessary to prevent an emergency. Chemical stabilization of the chemicals is necessary prior to transportation to an authorized hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility to prevent accidental fire and/or explosion during transport.

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, CA 95826

Contact Person
Vinke Menardo

Contact Title
Hazardous Substances Engineer

Phone Number
(916) 255-6668

Approver's Signature:

Vinke G. Menardo

Date:

March 23, 2020

Approver's Name
Vinke Menardo

Approver's Title
Hazardous Substances Engineer

Approver's Phone Number
(916) 255-6668

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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