Important Facts about the Kettleman Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility

Thirty-Year Operating History

The Kettleman Hills Facility (KHF) has provided safe treatment and disposal services to California businesses and public agencies for more than 30 years. During the past 10 years, the facility safely handled wastes from more than 4,800 cleanups, which included numerous communities, municipalities, government agencies, schools, colleges and infrastructure projects.

The Proposed Expansion

The proposed expansion will allow KHF to continue normal operations. There will be no increase in annual volumes or truck traffic and no new waste streams. KHF will continue to manage primarily "California-only" hazardous soils from cleanup projects.

State Study Confirms KHF Does Not Impact Kettleman City

Cal-EPA Secretary Linda Adams described the State 2010 Environmental Exposure Assessment for Kettleman City as *"one of the most thorough environmental health investigations ever conducted in California."*

- Extensive air monitoring found no link between KHF and environmental contamination in Kettleman City.
- Cal-EPA confirmed groundwater beneath KHF flows away from Kettleman City and cannot affect wells that supply the town's drinking water.
- Cal-EPA and the Department of Public Health (CDPH) could find no common health or environmental cause for birth defects in Kettleman City
- Based on Cancer Registry data from 1996 to 2008 CDPH determined cancer rates in the area were lower than expected based on statewide averages.
- Compared to statewide averages, CDPH found no excess cases of asthma, autism or infant low birth weight for which data were available.

Findings of Unique PCB Study

U.S. EPA required KHF to conduct the most extensive analysis of possible PCB exposures ever conducted at an EPA regulated PCB disposal facility. Thousands of soil, vegetation and air samples were collected at the perimeter of the facility and analyzed by an independent laboratory to assess human health risks. Samples were measured in "parts per trillion" levels – roughly equal to one grain of sand in 730,000 pounds of sand. EPA determined that:

- Concentrations of PCBs measured in the soil, air and vegetation were consistent with background levels reported in an EPA national study for rural areas across the U.S. that are **not** near hazardous waste facilities;
- PCB levels in soil were **2,000 times below** EPA's risk-based residential clean-up levels; and
- Potential human health risks for a rancher working right on the border of the facility are 100 times lower than U.S. EPA and Cal-EPA target risk levels; and there is no evidence that PCBs are migrating off-site at concentrations that would adversely affect the health of local community residents or the environment

Ambient Air Monitoring Program and Health Risk Assessment

At the request of the DTSC, consultants recently completed a detailed, four-year evaluation of comprehensive ambient air quality measurements collected at three sampling stations located around the facility boundary. Based on DTSC approved monitoring plans, consultants evaluated potential risks to human health in the area of the KHF.

The evaluation, called the Residential Risk Assessment, concluded that **potential emissions from KHF do not pose health risks in residential areas in and around Kettleman City.** The additional lifetime cancer risks and non-cancer health effects at all three locations were well below benchmark risk levels identified by Cal-EPA, DTSC, USEPA, and the Regional Air District. **The calculated risks in and around Kettleman City associated with KHF emissions were at least 1,000 times lower than the calculated background inhalation risk.**