



# Community Information Sheet: PCB Waste Permit Project Clean Harbors Los Angeles, LLC – Vernon, California

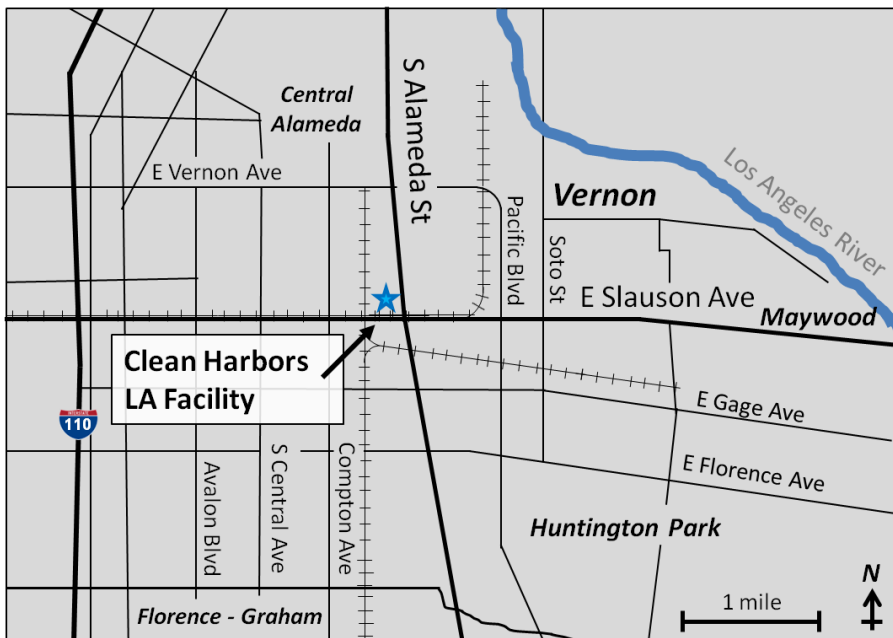
US Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • October 2012

## Purpose of Permit

The PCB permit helps to ensure that the facility operates in a manner that protects human health and the environment, and complies with federal regulations. However, this permit action only covers activities related to PCB wastes, and not other hazardous waste activities regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Hazardous waste is regulated under a separate permit issued by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

## Where is the Clean Harbors facility?

The 2.3-acre facility is located at the intersection of Slauson Avenue and Alameda Street, in Vernon, California.



Clean Harbors Los Angeles location denoted by star

## Where does the PCB waste come from?

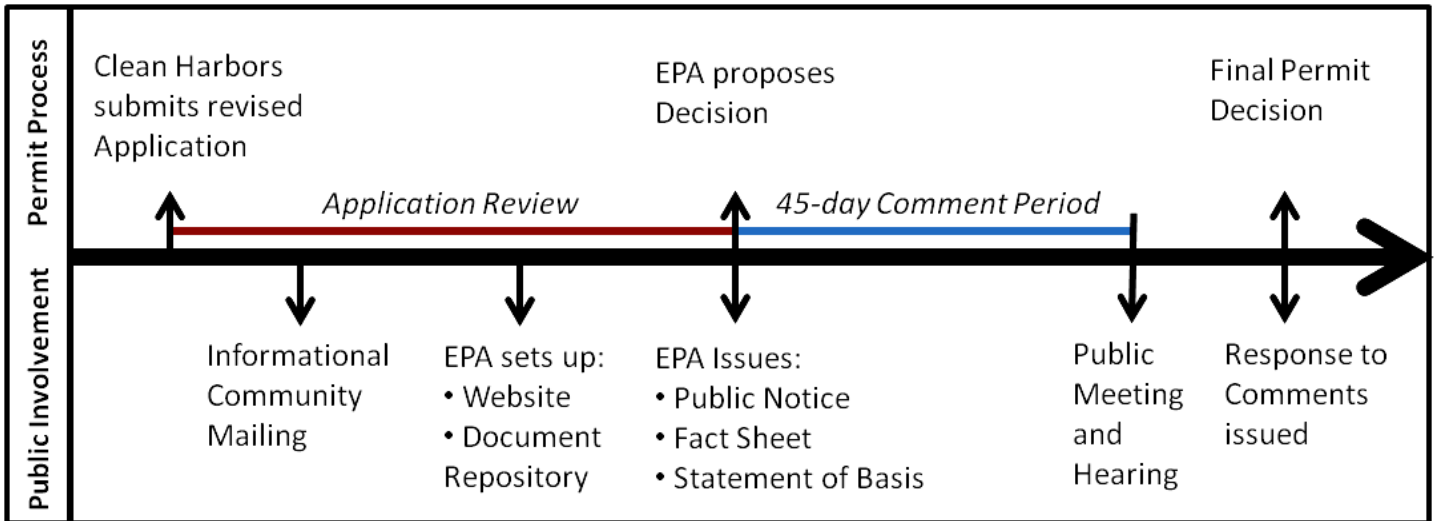
In 2009, Clean Harbors accepted approximately 90% of its PCB waste from Southern California, in particular Los Angeles County. Most of these sources were power companies phasing out electrical equipment from service stations. However, specific generators of waste can vary annually.

## Facility Facts

- Clean Harbors has operated as a hazardous waste processing facility since 1980, and has been permitted to store PCBs since 1992.
- The facility receives PCBs by truck, repackages it, and sends it for appropriate disposal.
- EPA regulates PCB operations at the facility, which constitute less than 10% of the total waste received. PCBs are toxic chemicals regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).
- California's DTSC regulates hazardous waste operations at the facility. Hazardous waste, along with non-hazardous wastes, constitute more than 90% of the total waste received.
- Currently, the facility has a permitted storage capacity of 7,920 gallons for PCB waste.

## Public Involvement

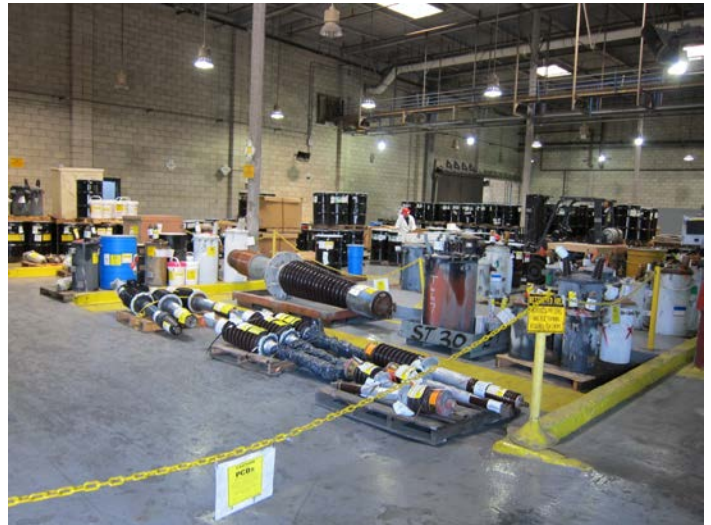
Once EPA has finished reviewing the permit application, EPA will propose a permit decision by publishing a fact sheet and public notice. This will initiate a 45-day public comment period, during which EPA will hold a public meeting and hearing. This represents an important opportunity for the public to comment on EPA's proposed decision before a final decision on the permit is made. All comments received will be considered in making a final permit decision.



## What is in a permit application?

Among other things, a permit application includes the following information:

- **Description of storage areas** – PCB storage areas must meet proper engineering standards to prevent chemical releases.
- **Standard operating procedures** – These cover a variety of facility operations including waste treatment, laboratory testing, temporary storage locations, and marking requirements.
- **Recordkeeping procedures and reporting to EPA** – All shipments of waste are tracked and the tracking records are kept. There are also requirements to notify EPA about the amounts of waste in storage and any cleanups that are conducted.
- **Spill prevention and cleanup procedures** – Any measures taken to clean up spills within the facility must be carried out in accordance with TSCA.
- **Closure plan and financial assurance** – When the facility closes, Clean Harbors must ensure that there is enough money set aside to adequately sample and decontaminate the entire facility, if necessary.



Clean Harbors LA's PCB storage room

The most current application is available for public viewing in the information repository at the Florence Library (see next page for location and hours).

## What are PCBs?

PCBs are man-made organic chemicals that were manufactured from 1929 until their manufacture was banned in 1979. Due to their unique chemical properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications. Today, one of the largest sources of PCB waste comes from electrical equipment being taken out of service.



## Why worry about PCBs?

PCBs are a class of toxic chemicals that are carcinogenic and may cause other harmful non-cancer effects on the body. Once released into the environment, PCBs may persist for decades, accumulating to toxic levels in fish, animals, and people as they move up the food-chain.

## Inspection History

Both EPA's PCB permit and the DTSC-issued hazardous waste permit are enforced through regular inspections of the facility. EPA's PCB inspections are unannounced and include random wipe sampling to check for residues and evidence of chemical releases. The last two inspections at Clean Harbors in 2009 and 2011 only yielded minor violations, such as improper labeling of containers and storage areas. To view past inspection reports, please visit the website listed below.

## How is EPA working with the facility to reduce risk?

PCBs, due to their chemical properties, have little potential to become airborne. Therefore, the main concern from a risk perspective is how to prevent spills and properly address spill cleanup and containment. The entire Clean Harbors Los Angeles facility is covered by concrete or asphalt, so spills can be contained properly.

Although the EPA permit only addresses the management of PCB waste, DTSC has evaluated a risk assessment covering other facility operations as part of its hazardous waste permit process. EPA employees also separately visit the site and review all documentation submitted as part of the permit application. As part of our review, EPA must make a determination that the facility's PCB operations do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, or else deny the permit request.



2009 Inspection at Clean Harbors LA

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If you would like to see documents related to this permit process, you may visit an information repository at:

Florence Library  
1610 East Florence Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90001  
(323) 581-8028

<b>Mon</b>	11 - 7
<b>Tue</b>	11 - 8
<b>Wed</b>	11 - 8
<b>Thu</b>	11 - 5
<b>Fri</b>	11 - 5
<b>Sat</b>	11 - 5
<b>Sun</b>	Closed

You can access EPA's Clean Harbors permit website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/pcbs/disposal/cleanharbors>

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (WST-4)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Nathan Dadap

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U.S. EPA  
Permit No. G-35

*Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use, \$300*

*Address Service Requested*

EPA Project Manager:

Local Site Information Repository:

Website:

**Contact Information**

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/pCBS/disposal/cleanharbors>  
Florence Library, 1610 E. Florence Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA | 323-581-8028  
Nathan Dadap, 415-972-3654, dadap.nathan@epa.gov



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) is reviewing a permit application from Clean Harbors Los Angeles, LLC – a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility in Vernon, CA. Since 1992, Clean Harbors has stored polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste for offsite disposal as allowed under an EPA-issued permit. **As we review the renewal application, we are interested in hearing your questions and comments about the facility and the permit application.**



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