PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS

RE-AUTHORIZATION APPROVAL FOR

STORAGE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) AT DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY, FREEPORT, TEXAS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas is proposing to re-authorize Dow Chemical Company, Freeport, Texas to store PCB wastes. EPA has the authority to issue approvals for commercial storage and disposal of PCBs by incineration under Section 6 (e) of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) in accordance with regulations promulgated pursuant to 40 CFR 761.65 and 40 CFR 761.70 respectively.

PCBs were normally used as dielectric fluids in electrical equipment. In 1979, PCB dielectric fluids were banned from manufacture to limit further release of PCBs into lakes and streams, where they may bioaccumulate in the food chain into game fish that could be harmful if eaten. PCBs have been linked to liver and kidney damage if ingested in high concentrations over long periods of time. Proper land disposal of nonliquid PCBs, such as drained transformers and contaminated soil, provides the public with additional protection against PCB releases into the aquatic food chain.

EPA has determined under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that historic properties will not be affected by the proposed reauthorization.

EPA has determined under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that the proposed reauthorization will not affect any listed species or designated critical habitat.

This notice opens a 45-day comment period, starting February 29, 2024, during which requests may be made for a public hearing. To obtain a copy of the proposed approval documentation please visit https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/epa-region-6-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs. To make a comment, please contact Mr. Harry Shah, at Shah.Harry@epa.gov or 214-665-6457; or Tracie Donaldson at donaldson.tracie@epa.gov or 214-665-6653.