PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS

RE-AUTHORIZATION APPROVAL FOR COMMERCIAL STORAGE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) AT US ECOLOGY TEXAS, INC., AT ROBSTOWN, TEXAS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Dallas, Texas office proposes to re-authorize the current storage facility and authorize the new storage facility application submitted by US Ecology Texas, Inc., located at 3277 County Road 69, Robstown, Texas, for the commercial storage of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). US Ecology Texas, Inc. requests approval to operate a new storage facility with a maximum PCB inventory of 972 55-gallon drums (53,460 gallons or 264 cubic yards). The EPA has authority to issue approvals for commercial storage of PCBs under Section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in accordance with the federal regulations at 40 CFR 761.65. After reviewing all the information submitted by the facility, EPA finds that all requirements for the operation of a commercial PCB storage facility have been met. The commercial storage of PCBs is allowed on a temporary basis of not more than one year from receipt of the waste at the facility until the waste must be disposed at an approved PCB disposal facility.

PCBs are a group of chemical compounds previously used extensively in the electrical industry that are generally resistant to biodegradation once they enter the environment. At high concentrations, PCBs have been shown to cause liver and kidney damage in humans, usually through direct exposure or ingestion through contaminated seafood. PCBs are suspected carcinogens (Class B). PCBs are normally found in electrical transformers, capacitors, and contaminated soil resulting from spills.

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.

EPA will hold an informational public meeting for US Ecology Texas, Inc.'s PCB Storage Approval on March 21, 2024, during 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, at Petronila Elementary School, 2391 County Road 67, Robstown, Texas 78380. Please call the school's phone number at (361) 387-2834 for any inquiries pertaining to this public meeting. Use the following information to attend the meeting virtually: Join ZoomGov Meeting at https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1608637190, Dial: 1-551-285-1373, Meeting ID: 160 863 7190. For more information and preparation for this meeting, EPA will have a fact sheet for viewing at the web link provided below.

This notice opens a 45-day comment period, starting February 12, 2024, during which requests may be made for a public hearing. To obtain a copy of the proposed approval documentation and fact sheet please visit https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/epa-region-6-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs. To submit a comment on EPA's proposed decision, please contact Mr. Erik Christianson, EPA Region 6, RCRA Permits and Solid Waste Section, by emailing Christianson.Erik@epa.gov.