



# Information Factsheet:

## PCB Waste Storage Approval Project

### Emerald Transformer Los Angeles, LLC – Vernon, California

US Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • 2025

## Purpose of Approval

The PCB Approval (Permit) helps to ensure that the facility operates in a manner that protects human health and the environment, and complies with federal regulations. Specifically, this Approval 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 Emerald Transformer facility?

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



*Emerald Transformer Los Angeles location denoted by star*

## Where does the PCB waste come from?

In 2024, Emerald Transformer 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

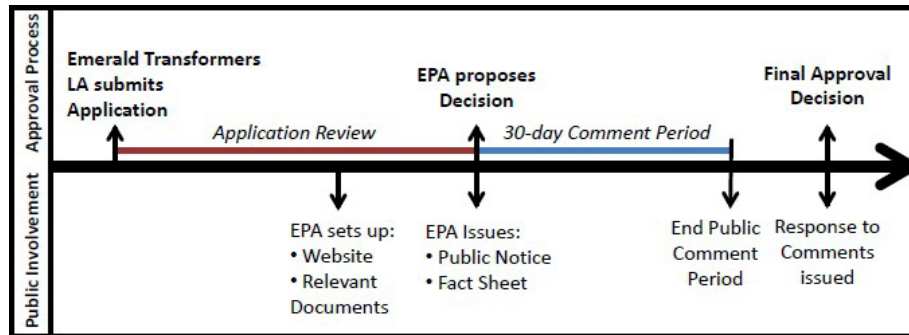
- Emerald Transformer has operated as a hazardous waste processing facility since 1980, and has been permitted to store PCBs since 1992.
- The facility receives PCBs by truck, repackages leaking items, and sends it for appropriate disposal.
- EPA regulates PCB operations at the facility, which constitute 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.

## Approval Application

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) received an Approval application from Emerald Transformer Los Angeles, LLC – a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility in Vernon, CA. Since 1992, this Facility has stored polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste for offsite disposal as allowed under an EPA-issued Approval.

## Public Comment

EPA has finished reviewing the Approval application and is proposing an Approval decision by publishing this fact sheet, a public notice, a Proposed Approval, and relevant documents. This will initiate a 30-day public comment period. This represents an important opportunity for the public to comment on EPA's proposed decision before a final decision on the Approval is made. All comments received will be considered in making a final Approval decision.



## What is in an Approval application?

Among other things, an Approval 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** – Emerald Transformer must ensure that there is enough money set aside to adequately sample and decontaminate the entire facility, when the facility closes.

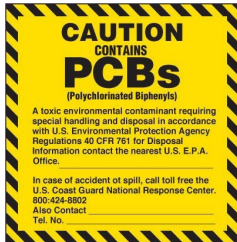


*Emerald Transformer LA's PCB storage room*

The most current application is available for public viewing in the information repository Online.  
<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/emerald-transformer-los-angeles#docs>

## 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 Approval 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 inspection at Emerald Transformer in 2024 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 Emerald Transformer Los Angeles facility is covered by concrete or asphalt, so spills can be contained properly.

Although the EPA Approval 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 Approval 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 Approval request.

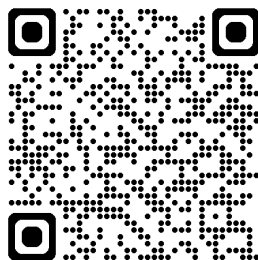


*2024 Inspection at Emerald Transformer LA*

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You can access EPA's Emerald Transformer Approval website at:  
<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/emerald-transformer-los-angeles#docs>