

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

NOTICE OF A PERMIT CHANGE JACADS Plans for Closure

January 2, 2001

The U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has allowed the Army to modify the hazardous wastes storage and treatment permit for the JACADS (Johnston Atoll Chemical Agency Disposal System) facility.

This change will let the Army continue to monitor air emissions coming from the incinerators' smoke stack while burning wastes that are created from taking apart and cleaning up the JACADS facility. The Army will use accurate automatic and continuously operating instruments to measure what is coming from the stack.

We believe that this permit change will allow the Army to finish cleanup and closure of JACADS in a way that will be safe for people, fish, birds and other animals that live on and around the JACADS site.

On July 26, 2000, the Army sent EPA a request to change the way the Army wanted to measure emission during clean up of JACADS and the former chemical weapons storage areas.



JACADS facility with incinerators inside

The Army operates the JACADS facility on Johnston Atoll, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. The JACADS facility was designed to take apart and burn military weapons containing chemical nerve agent and blister agent (known as mustard). The JACADS facility used incineration to destroy chemical agent and weapons. Since 1990 the Army has destroyed all of the four million pounds of the chemical agent and chemical weapons originally stored on Johnston Island.

On November 29, 2000, the Army destroyed the last of the remaining chemical weapons stockpile on Johnston Atoll. The Army will begin closure activities in January 2001.



Red-footed Boobies living on Johnston Island

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The Army sent EPA a request to modify the JACADS permit to allow the Army to change the way they measure air coming from the smoke stack while burning cleanup and closure waste and announced this request in a July 19, 2000 public notice. On August 3, 2000, the Army held a public meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. The EPA received several verbal comments and three sets of written comments on this permit change request during the comment period that began July 26, 2000 and ended October 27, 2000. This notification is being sent to all people on the JACADS mailing list as required by regulations (40 CFR 270.42(f)).

The approved permit change will go into effect immediately. In accordance with 40 CFR 124.19, Appeals on this permit change must be filed by February 2, 2001 and should be addressed to:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator
Environmental Appeals Board
401 M St. SW, Room 1145 (West Tower)
Washington DC 20460

You can find out more about these permit changes by contacting Stacy Braye at (415) 744-2056 or by calling EPA toll-free at (800) 231-3075. You can read in more detail about these changes and find out more about JACADS by calling or visiting these places:

U.S. EPA, Region IX
Pacific Islands Contact Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-152
Honolulu, HI 96850
Contact: Vicky Tshako
Phone: (808) 541-2710

U.S. Army - Bldg. 4517
Chemical Demilitarization and Remediation Activity
(Attn: SFAE-CD-ME)
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010
Contact: Bill Stayer
Phone: (410) 436-4200

Hamilton Library - Hawaiian Collection
University of Hawaii
2550 The Mall
Honolulu, HI 96822
Contact: Lynette Furuashi
Phone: (808) 956-8264

Hilo Public Library
300 Waiianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
Contact: Wilma Matsumura
Phone (808) 933-4650

Kahului Library
90 School Street
Kahului (Maui), HI
Contact: Lani Scott
Phone: (808) 873-3097

Lihue Public Library
4344 Hardy St.
Lihue (Kauai), HI
Contact: Margie Arakaki
Phone: (808) 241-3223

The full Administrative Record about the JACADS this permit and permit changes can be reviewed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday at:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street (WST-4)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: Vernon Christianson, (415) 744-2422
or by e-mail at christianson.vern@epa.gov

To get on EPA's JACADS mailing list or receive other information about JACADS or JACADS closure, please call Vicky Semones, EPA Office of Community Involvement, at (415) 744-2184 or toll-free at (800) 231-3075. To get on the Army's JACADS mailing list to receive additional information, please call Cathy Herlinger, Public Outreach and Information Office, at (410) 436-1479.