



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Land and Materials Administration (LMA)

Opportunity for Comments on a
Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Temporary Emergency Permit

ISSUE DATES: December 6 and December 13, 2024

The Land and Materials Administration of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has issued a temporary emergency permit for treatment of hazardous waste to U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005. The permit authorizes the chemical treatment of approximately 35 pounds of a laboratory chemical to eliminate a potential risk that the material has become explosively unstable

The material that will be treated is an unused commercial chemical product that was obtained from a supplier of industrial and laboratory chemicals. The material is an explosive compound that had been used in research by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory (ARL) at APG. Excess material from research activity was being held in inventory by ARL for potential use in other projects. Explosive safety experts at ARL have become concerned that the material may have become unstable over its extended storage time.

The material is currently in an explosives storage bunker operated by ARL in a secure area of APG. The emergency permit authorizes a specialized contractor with expertise in the chemical neutralization of explosive compounds to perform contained chemical treatment of the material. Specialized reagents will be added to the material in a controlled manner to stabilize the material and remove the potential explosive threat. The treatment will be conducted in, and adjacent to, the bunker in which the material is currently being stored. Treatment will take place in containers, and secondary containment will be provided. The U.S. Department of Defense has previously employed the services of the contractor at other sites to chemically treat waste explosives to render them safe. Process residuals will be characterized and sent off site to an appropriate facility for final disposal.

After discussing plans for the proposed treatment with APG, the Land and Materials Administration made a determination to issue an emergency permit under authority of Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.13.07.14. The emergency permit was issued verbally on November 21, 2024, and followed up with a written emergency permit that specifies the requirements that must be met in treating the waste. The permit was issued for a term of 90 days to offer maximum flexibility to accommodate potential delays due to weather or other factors. However, the actual treatment is expected to be accomplished during a single day, plus a mobilization day before the treatment day and a demobilization day the day following treatment.

Persons who believe that any condition of the emergency permit is inappropriate or that the Department's decision to issue the emergency permit is inappropriate, shall submit in writing all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position by the close of the public comment period on January 20, 2025. Comments may be taken into account by the LMA in its oversight of this operation, and will be reviewed in regard to future emergency permit requests. Comments may be sent to Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Acting Director, Land and Materials Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 610, Baltimore, MD, 21230-1719.

The emergency permit, related information, and comments received are on file in the LMA offices at the above address and may be inspected during normal working hours. Arrangements can be made for copying. A copy of the emergency permit will also be posted on the MDE website at <<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/HazardousWaste>> under "Announcements".

Any requests for information or questions concerning this matter should be directed to Mr. Edward Hammerberg at (410) 537-3356.