



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 181HW
Staff Report
April 22, 1987

Petition No. 181 involves the addition of service and cleaning activities for spent ion exchange media at Envirite's Thomaston facility.

Section 22a-117 of the Connecticut General Statutes prohibits the modification of a hazardous waste facility without a certificate of public safety and necessity from the Council. Section 22a-115 defines a modification to include "any change or alteration in the design, capacity, process or operation of an existing hazardous waste facility requiring a [permit from the Department of Environmental Protection] that the council deems significant . . ." (emphasis added). Envirite's petition requests a Council ruling that proposed changes are not "significant," and thus do not constitute a modification.

Envirite currently treats ion exchange wastewater obtained from customers who clean their own spent ion exchange media. It now proposes to pick up spent exchange media from customers, clean it, and return the cleaned media for reuse.

Ion exchange media falls into EPA's metal hydroxide sludge category of hazardous waste. The treatment of metal hydroxide wastewater that results from the cleaning of ion exchange media comprises between .1 percent and 1.0 percent, or between 50 and 500 gallons per day, of Envirite's current allocated treatment capacity. The treatment of the wastewater would remain the same, since the same volume and type of wastewater is produced whether the cleaning of the media is carried out at the generator's site or at Envirite.

The removal of the pollutants from the spent ion exchange media would involve circulation of an acid solution through the media cartridge at a rate of one to two gallons per minute. The acid rinse would require 30 gallons of acid solution, after which the cartridge would be rinsed with water. The spent acid solution and rinsewater would then be directed to Envirite's treatment process.

Envirite currently uses acid rinsing in a number of existing operations. The proposed activity would require the addition of a one- to two-gallon-per-minute pump, five 300- to 500-gallon tanks, and approximately 150 square feet of floor space within their existing facility. Envirite states that the changes would not increase its treatment capacity, expand waste categories, or add new treatment processes.

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