



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 332HW
Envirite Corporation
Thomaston, Connecticut
Staff Report
November 1, 1994

On October 24, 1994, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) members Harry E. Covey and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr. and Joel M. Rinebold and Fred O. Cunliffe of the Council staff met with Stephen B. Smith and John Krupa of Envirite Corporation at its facility located at 198 Old Waterbury Road, Thomaston, Connecticut.

Envirite has been operating as a hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility since 1975, and has retained continuous interim status under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) since 1980. On April 24, 1987, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a final RCRA Part B permit for the Thomaston facility. Envirite continued to store and treat hazardous waste until May 1990 when operations stopped.

In November 1993, Envirite applied to the DEP for permit renewal under RCRA and Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) 22a-454. The DEP has already reviewed the need for an air permit and has determined that a permit is not necessary. In August 1994, the DEP printed a Notice of Tentative Determination for approval of Envirite's draft RCRA hazardous waste and Connecticut Hazardous Waste permits. The DEP will not issue a final permit until a Council determination has been rendered.

Envirite proposes to manufacture and recycle copper etchants commonly used in the printed circuit and electroplate industries. Previous treatment of spent etchants entailed the removal of metals and discharge of ammoniated waste water. The solid material was disposed of at a landfill. At this time, Envirite proposes that the copper be precipitated out as a copper oxide in a "filter cake" form and the remaining ammonia be recovered for use again. At this time, Envirite would not generate any waste for land disposal in Connecticut. Presently, Envirite would not discharge any waste water effluent from the copper and ammonia recycling process to the Thomaston POTW. This waste water, which would consist predominantly of sodium chloride, would be collected and trucked to another out-of-state Envirite facility for disposal. The Town of Thomaston and Envirite are discussing the viability of discharging this effluent to the Town's waste water treatment plant.

Under existing permits, Envirite was able to store 102 acceptable hazardous waste codes and treat 31 other hazardous wastes codes which included bulking and off-site shipment. Envirite has notified DEP that bulking would no longer be included in the permit and only 12 waste codes corresponding to spent etchants of the printed circuit and electroplate industries will be maintained in the permit. The final issuance of a proposed RCRA permit would supersede preceding permits, eliminating the possibility of accepting or treating previously permitted waste codes. Also, the existing permit allowed for 139,000 gallons of storage capacity in 14 closed tanks. Now Envirite would maintain eight closed tanks of which four would be new for a total of 98,353 gallons for permitted waste storage, 30 percent less than previously permitted. No hazardous waste material would be stored on site for more than one year. In addition, vacuum filters previously used to dewater waste materials would be replaced by plate and frame filters. There would be no changes to the exterior of the building for waste recycling.

Envirite contends the proposed addition of new tanks and the reduction of RCRA and Connecticut waste codes and volume thereof is not a "significant modification" as defined under CGS section 22a-115(9), that a change of vacuum filters to plate and frame filters clearly falls under the definition of routine replacement of individual process components as defined in CGS section 22a-115(9), and that a Certificate of Public Safety and Necessity is not required.

Fred O. Cunliffe
Siting Analyst

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