



FACT SHEET FOR A HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT REISSUANCE

CHS Inc. Laurel Refinery
803 Highway 212 S.
Laurel, Montana 59044-0909
EPA ID Number: MTD006238083
Draft Permit Number: MTHWP-25-01

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting public comment on the reissuance of a hazardous waste permit to CHS Inc. (CHS) for the Laurel Refinery. The draft permit is being issued under Title 75, Chapter 10, Part 4, of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act. DEQ is also requesting comments on the draft environmental assessment of DEQ's action.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

CHS is south of the city of Laurel, Montana. CHS is a petroleum refinery that has been in operation since the 1930s. Refinery operations are conducted on approximately 100 of 350 acres owned by CHS, all of which are zoned for heavy industrial use. The remaining acreage consists of administrative offices and green space. Adjacent property use is residential, light industrial, and agricultural. The Yellowstone River borders a portion of the southern property boundary.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT BACKGROUND

A hazardous waste permit is required for sites that manage, treat, and dispose of hazardous waste on-site. A permit is being reissued to CHS for management of a regulated hazardous waste management unit and implementation of facility-wide corrective action requirements. The regulated unit is an inactive land treatment unit, approximately 18 acres in size including roads and berms.

Hazardous waste permits must be reissued every 10 years. CHS was issued a hazardous waste permit initially in 1991. The current permit for post-closure of a land treatment unit and facility-wide corrective action was issued by DEQ in 2014. CHS submitted a draft application for a third reissuance of its hazardous waste permit renewal in February 2024. The draft permit reissuance will replace the current permit.

The hazardous waste permit has required CHS to investigate and remediate all facility releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents at the refinery as well as any contamination that has migrated off-site. The purpose of corrective action is to protect human health and the environment from all releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from any permitted unit. This permit will continue to require the implementation of corrective measures to clean-up the site. Some areas of the site contain volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and metals. If these hazardous constituents are above levels protective of human health or the environment, remediation is required.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Draft Permit Reissuance

The draft permit continues the requirements from the previous permit for post-closure care and facility-wide corrective action. This includes conditions for groundwater and soil monitoring.

The draft permit reissuance is for the post-closure care of a closed land treatment unit and the implementation of facility-wide corrective action.

Closed Land Treatment Unit Post-Closure Care Requirements

Post-closure care does not allow for any new placement of hazardous waste on the land treatment unit. Its purpose is to continue to monitor and maintain the units to ensure hazardous constituents do not escape and pollute the surrounding environment.

Facility-Wide Corrective Action Requirements

These requirements include implementation of previously approved corrective measures to address contamination for both soil and groundwater.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

An environmental assessment has been prepared for the permit reissuance in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The environmental assessment outlines reasonable alternatives and any impacts to the human environment that may result from DEQ's actions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are provided forty-five (45) calendar days to review and comment on the draft permit and draft EA. The draft permit and EA are available for review on DEQ's website at <http://deq.mt.gov/public/publiccomment>. They may also be reviewed during business hours at:

<i>Location Information</i>	<i>Review Hours</i>
Montana Department of Environmental Quality Waste Management Bureau 1225 Cedar Street Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 444-5300	Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Comment Period

The comment period is from June 15, 2025 through July 31, 2025.

Written Comments

Comments must be submitted in writing no later than July 31, 2025 to:

Alexis Frost
Hazardous Waste Specialist
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Comments may also be submitted via email to deqhazwaste@mt.gov. Please use the subject line *CHS Laurel Refinery Permit Renewal*.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held if DEQ determines, based upon requests, there is a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit reissuance. Requests for a public meeting must be submitted in writing to DEQ by July 31, 2025.

DEQ's Procedure for Reaching Final Decisions

DEQ will prepare a Response to Comments after reviewing all comments. The Response to Comments will explain any changes to the proposed permit and respond to any comments received during the comment period.

DEQ will then make a final decision to issue or deny the permit reissuance. After DEQ makes its final decisions, notice will be given to CHS and each person who submitted written comments or requested a notice of the final decisions. The final decisions become effective 30 days after notice of the decision, unless a later date is specified or a public hearing is requested under 40 CFR 124.11, as incorporated by ARM 17.53.1201. If no comments are received, the final permit becomes effective immediately upon notice of DEQ's final decision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need further information about the CHS hazardous waste permit, please contact Alexis Frost at the address listed above, phone (406) 444-1435 or email alexis.frost@mt.gov.

For additional information about CHS Laurel Refinery, please visit <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/Programs/hazmat>.