

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Draft TSCA PCB Approval

Florida Transformer, LLC



4509 State Highway 83, DeFuniak Springs, Florida

Fact Sheet for Public Notice

July 2020

Introduction

This fact sheet is being issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to notify the public of environmental activities that are being proposed for the Florida Transformer, LLC (FT) facility located in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. FT is located on approximately 50 acres with one main building, a detached office and a residential building used for personnel training. FT provides services to electric utilities, cooperatives, municipalities, military installations, etc. FT services are mostly within the Southeast to include Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) approval that is the subject of this public notice addresses the operation of a mobile treatment unit that dechlorinates and destroys the PCBs in mineral oil dielectric fluid (MODEF). This fact sheet provides an opportunity to learn more about the TSCA PCB approval process, as well as the upcoming public comment period and virtual meeting.

Upcoming Public Comment Period and Meeting

The draft TSCA PCB approval is available to the public for review and comment for a **30-day period from July 23, 2020, to Aug 23, 2020**. The public may provide written comments during the 30-day comment period. Please submit your comments by letter or email, postmarked by the deadline, to Karen Swetland-Johnson (contact information on page 2). EPA will finalize its decision after responses have been prepared to all written comments received. A copy of the draft TSCA PCB approval is available at EPA's PCB website at <https://go.usa.gov/xfkWb>. The draft TSCA PCB approval and application are available in hard copy format at the Walton-DeFuniak Library (On the Lake Circle) 3 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida. The hours of operation are Monday-Saturday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm, with the exception of Tuesday, when the library closes at 8:00 pm. Comments are being accepted on the draft TSCA PCB approval, not the supporting documents.

In order to give area residents an opportunity to meet and discuss the draft TSCA PCB approval, the **EPA will hold a virtual public meeting on August 6, 2020, from 4:00-6:00 pm CDT** at <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/floridatransformer/> or call-in at (866) 299-3188, code: 703 308 8577. The virtual meeting will start with a brief presentation to provide an overview of the TSCA requirements. Following the presentation, an informal session will be held to provide opportunities to discuss and ask questions.



Above: The control board of the PCB-1000 treatment unit at Florida Transformer.

What is TSCA?

TSCA stands for the Toxic Substances Control Act. The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 provides EPA with authority to require reporting, recordkeeping and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures, which include PCBs.

FT is an electrical power and distribution equipment service, decommissioning, and repair facility. Some of the equipment FT receives contains TSCA-regulated PCB oil. The PCB oil must either be incinerated at an approved facility or treated to destroy the PCBs. FT's PCB-1000 unit is capable of destroying the PCBs in the oil at a level equivalent to an incinerator, as required by EPA regulations. Then, the clean oil can be reused in electrical equipment without the risks of PCB contamination.

Background

Because implementation of the TSCA regulations is not delegated to states, FT must obtain a PCB approval from EPA to treat regulated PCB waste.

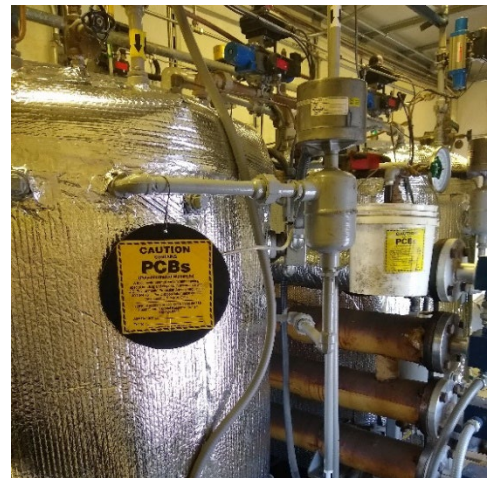
On September 26, 2017, EPA Region 4 issued a 40 CFR 761.65(d) PCB commercial storage approval to FT for its DeFuniak Springs, Florida, facility, that allows FT to store PCB waste. On April 22, 2015, EPA Headquarters issued a TSCA PCB approval to FT to destroy PCBs in MODEF using their PCB-1000 CD (chemical dechlorination) mobile unit. The dechlorination process was approved at that time to destroy PCBs in mineral oil dielectric fluid (MODEF) that had PCB concentrations as high as 2,000 ppm. As requested by EPA, five months prior to the expiration of their current treatment approval, FT submitted a renewal application to the EPA. The EPA reviewed FT's application for the treatment of PCBs as a mobile unit across the country and as a stationary unit at the DeFuniak Springs facility. In February 2020, EPA visited the DeFuniak Springs facility to observe the operation of the PCB-1000 unit. FT successfully treated three batches of MODEF contaminated with more than 2175 ppm PCBs down to below 2 ppm PCBs, meeting the regulatory standard.

The draft TSCA PCB approval has four sections: Definitions and Acronyms, Conditions, Approval, and Appendices. The draft TSCA PCB approval is scheduled to be issued for five years. However, the EPA has the authority to suspend or revoke the TSCA PCB approval at any time when the EPA has reason to believe that the continued operation of this disposal unit presents an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. At this time, the EPA has determined that the operation of FT's PCB-1000 CD unit in accordance with the draft TSCA PCB approval conditions will not pose an unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment, per the TSCA standard.

To provide an opportunity for community involvement, EPA is coordinating a public comment period and virtual meeting (refer to page 1). The EPA Project Manager may be contacted with any questions regarding the public notice, the draft TSCA PCB approval, or any general inquiries regarding the TSCA PCB regulations.



*Pictures of the PCB-1000
CD unit at Florida
Transformer.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Public Notice Website

<https://go.usa.gov/xfkWb>

Information Repository for Florida Transformer

Walton-DeFuniak Library
(On the Lake Circle)
3 Circle Drive
DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32433
(850) 892-3624

Contacts:

EPA Project Manager

Karen Swetland-Johnson
U.S. EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, MC 5303P
Washington, DC 20460
703-308-8421
Swetland-Johnson.Karen@epa.gov

Tips on Effective Public Comments -
go.usa.gov/xNHBw