



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

March 20, 2023

NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP

**Subject:** Notice of Data Breach

I am writing this letter to inform you of a data security incident that involved your personal information. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recognizes the importance of, and is highly committed to, protecting the personal information of both our employees and the Californians we serve. This notice is being sent out of an abundance of caution and includes information about the incident and the steps you can take to protect your personal information.

### **What Happened**

On Friday, March 10, 2023, DTSC's security team discovered a DTSC e-mail account that was compromised and found that a threat-attacker briefly gained unauthorized access to the e-mail account. DTSC detected the activity immediately and took appropriate corrective actions to mitigate the threat. DTSC confirmed that the attacker did not download any files from the mailbox but may have seen e-mail messages and attachments containing personal information that may relate to DTSC employees.

### **What Personal Information Was Involved**

In performing our investigation, we determined that your name, Social Security Number, Driver's License Number and/or Medical Information were contained in the compromised e-mail account. This information was not downloaded, but it may have been seen by the attacker during the brief period in which the account was compromised.

## **What We Are Doing**

On March 10th, 2023, upon detection of the compromised account, we immediately cut off access to the e-mail box in question and ensured that access to the inbox was limited only to the appropriate DTSC staff. We are currently working on process improvements that can be implemented to eliminate the risk of this type of incident occurring in the future.

## **What You Can Do**

Please keep a copy of this notice in your records for future reference in the event you become aware of any unusual activity involving your personal information.

You may place a fraud alert on your credit files by following the recommended privacy protection steps outlined in the Breach Help – Consumer Tips from the California Attorney General. It can be found at the following web link -

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/privacy/cis-17-breach-help.pdf>.

You may also contact the three credit bureaus directly:

### **Experian**

P.O. Box 4500  
Allen, TX 75013  
www.experian.com  
(888) 397-3742

### **Equifax**

P.O. Box 740256  
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241  
www.equifax.com  
(800) 525-6285

### **TransUnion**

P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016-2000  
www.transunion.com  
(800) 680-7289

## **Other Important Information**

For additional information about your privacy rights, you may visit the website of the California Department of Justice, Privacy Enforcement and Protection at

<https://oag.ca.gov/privacy/online-privacy> and <https://oag.ca.gov/privacy/consumer-privacy-resources>.

## **For More Information**

The Department's website contains a notice and web links to information available to you at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PrivacyNotice>. This web page will be posted for the next 120 days.

## **Agency Contact**

If you have any questions or need further assistance, you may contact the DSTC Privacy Program Coordinator, Nilesh Kumar. He may be reached via mail at 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via e-mail at [Privacy.Program@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Privacy.Program@dtsc.ca.gov). Alternatively, you may contact Nilesh Kumar via telephone by way of the department's Information Technology Service Desk at (844) 523-4067. Please do not include your social security number or other confidential information on e-mails sent to the Department.

DTSC understands the importance of data security, and we want to assure you that DTSC is committed to protecting your personal information. We regret this incident occurred and sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this incident may cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meredith Williams", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.  
Director  
Department of Toxic Substances Control