



July 2015 Community Update

Closure and Cleanup of Exide Technologies Facility in Vernon

Recap of Recent Public Meetings:

May 28, Advisory Group Meeting, Resurrection Church, Boyle Heights

- Initial formation meeting of new Advisory Group
- Advisory Group co-chairs are Barbara Lee, Director, DTSC; Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Director, South Coast Air Quality Management District and Mark Lopez, Director, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.

June 11, Advisory Group Meeting, Maywood Academy High School, Maywood

- Advisory Group received an overview of Exide's proposed closure plan for safe closing of the Exide facility in Vernon, and learned more about the proposed hiring of a technical advisor to help with community outreach.

June 18, Scoping Meeting, City Hall, Maywood

- Gathered community comments toward development of a Draft Environmental Impact Report as part of Exide's closure process. The report will detail potential impacts to the environment from the closure activities.

Information on meeting agendas, past meetings and current Advisory Group work can be found at:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>

Update on Cleanup of Residential Properties – Initial Assessment Areas:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) continues to oversee cleanup of the Initial Assessment Areas that include residential neighborhoods in parts of Maywood, Boyle Heights, and East Los Angeles; totaling 219 properties.

As of July 16, 2015, 130 of those properties have been cleaned up and a total of 7,023 tons of contaminated soil has been removed and disposed of safely. DTSC estimates that at least 80 percent of the 219 properties will have some sort of cleanup.

UPDATE ON SOIL TESTING – EXPANDED AREAS:

DTSC ordered Exide to expand soil investigation to what is referred to as the "Expanded Area." The expanded area covers approximately 2 miles of residential properties outside of the Initial Assessment Areas of East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights and Maywood. A total of 146 residential properties were sampled.

- 99 percent of the samples show lead concentrations below the hazardous waste level, and high lead concentrations are isolated.
- Soil sampling results in this area do not require immediate removal of lead-contaminated soil.
- DTSC ordered Exide to re-analyze portions of the soil samples for additional metals that are typically associated with battery-smelting operations. DTSC is reviewing →

Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 6-8 p.m.

Resurrection Catholic Church, Parish Hall,
3324 E. Opal Street, Los Angeles, CA 90023

<https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Exide-Technologies-Advisory-Group-Meeting-July-23-2015.pdf>

← this additional data to identify the farthest extent of Exide's contamination.

- Soil at 11 public schools in the expanded area was sampled in the week of July 6, 2015 for presence of lead. We are awaiting test results.
- Based on the results of this additional analysis and consultation with experts within the agency as well as outside, we will decide how to proceed with a clean-up of the Expanded Area
- DTSC has discussed the sampling results on several occasions, and has shared the sampling results with affected property owners and the general public. We are continuing to meet with people through additional outreach efforts to discuss the sampling results and precautions people can take to reduce exposure to lead.
- Those precautions include:
 - Washing hands before eating
 - Removing shoes before coming into homes
 - Washing fruits and vegetables from the garden
 - Not digging in dirt where lead may be present
 - Covering areas of bare soil

UPDATE ON ON-SITE CLEANUP:

Work ordered by DTSC under previous enforcement action is underway:

- Installation of wells on- and off-site to establish limits of groundwater contamination associated with the Exide facility.
- Collection of dust, soil, and indoor air samples in the industrial area around the Exide facility. Soil and dust sampling will go out to at least 1,500 feet.

STATUS OF CLOSURE:

- Exide is shipping Blast Feed material from their facility in Vernon to their other authorized facility in Muncie, Indiana and to DoeRun in Boss, Missouri.
- DTSC found the proposed Closure Plan submitted by Exide inadequate and ordered Exide to make revisions and resubmit a revised version by July 28.
- Closure Process Timeline:
 - **Summer 2015:** DTSC to –
 - Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
 - Review revised Closure Plan and prepare for public comment
 - **Fall 2015:** Public Comment Period for stakeholder input on –
 - Draft Closure Plan
 - Draft Environmental impact Report (DEIR)
 - **Late 2015:** DTSC considers all public comments before –
 - Approving the Closure Plan
 - Finalizing the Environmental Impact Report and
 - Prepares response to public comments received
 - **Early Spring 2016:** Phase 1 of Closure commences

Additional information here:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/061115-EXIDE-Advisory-Group-PPT.pdf>

SUMMARY OF VIOLATION:

DTSC issued a Summary of Violation against Exide as a result of enforcement inspection on May 20, 2015. Inspection revealed that that Exide failed to clean up liquid in a sump in the containment building on site. Link to Summary of Violation:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Exide_ENF2015_SOV_052615.pdf

**For more
information:**

Contact **Marina Perez**, DTSC Public Participation Specialist: at **1-844-225-3887**

or visit: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>