



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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DTSC Files Complaint Against Richmond Plating Company for Numerous Alleged Hazardous Waste Violations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced today that the California Attorney General’s Office has filed a civil complaint on DTSC’s behalf against Electro-Forming, Co., a metal plating company operating at 130 Nevin Avenue, in the City of Richmond, (Richmond facility) and against its owners, Marion Patigler, the Estate of Gerhard Patigler, and the Estate of Ingrid Patigler, for numerous alleged violations of California hazardous waste laws.

DTSC’s Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) discovered the violations in March 2013 during execution of a search warrant at the Richmond facility. OCI started the investigation after receiving reports of serious violations of hazardous waste laws.

The complaint, filed in Contra Costa County Superior Court, alleges that Electro-Forming, Co. illegally disposed of hazardous waste in the street and on adjacent property. It also alleges that hazardous wastes were treated unlawfully by boiling off liquid plating waste and combining different types of hazardous wastes in a tank. DTSC’s complaint also alleges that Electro-Forming, Co. did not take sufficient precautions to prevent fire, explosions or accidental reaction of incompatible wastes.

DTSC is asking the court for injunctive relief to stop the public health and environmental threats posed by this facility. The Department also is seeking monetary penalties.

“This facility has demonstrated an unwillingness to operate in a manner that is safe for the surrounding community” said Reed Sato, Chief Counsel for DTSC. “Protection of the community’s health and the environment are critical, and this complaint calls for an end to the activities that have threatened both.”

Electro-Forming, Co. and its owners have a history of mishandling hazardous materials and wastes in connection with metal plating operations.

- In December 2007, DTSC issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order and Remedial Action Order to address releases of various hazardous substances at the Richmond facility, including chromic acid, nitric acid, plating rinse waters, and metal dust.

- In 2001, Marion Patigler and her father, Gerhard Patigler, both were convicted in Alameda County of misdemeanor hazardous waste violations in connection with plating operations at an Electro-Forming, Co. facility in Hayward. DTSC ordered the owners to investigate and remediate contamination at the Hayward Facility in 2003.
- Prompted by a whistleblower complaint in November 2010, USEPA Region 7 ordered the Heartland Plating in Bettendorf, Iowa, and its owners, Marion Patigler and the Estate of Gerhard Patigler, to address hazardous waste violations observed during an inspection of the facility and to take steps to investigate and cleanup any contamination.

To see the civil complaint filed against Electro-Forming, Co. and its owners, click [here](#).



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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.