



## Recent DTSC Work to Enhance Protection of Public Health and the Environment July 13, 2016

- On July 12, 2016, the Department of Toxic Substances Control issued an Addendum to a Summary of Violations to the Quemetco, Inc., battery recycling facility in the City of Industry over its failure to maintain a functioning leak-detection system in its “containment building” that contains hazardous waste related to the facility’s handling of lead. Quemetco must submit a plan to DTSC to correct the violation, as well as a schedule for completing that work. The affected portion of the containment building must be taken out of service and may not be used until Quemetco demonstrates it is back in compliance.
- Last month, DTSC completed its two-year, exhaustive permitting enhancement project. Led by the Permitting Enhancement Work Plan team, DTSC completed 86 action items to make the process more protective, more enforceable and more accessible to the public.
- DTSC achieved its FY2015-16 goal of issuing 12 decisions on hazardous waste permit applications. The permit decisions were issued utilizing many of the permit enhancements, resolving several long-term permit renewals.
- DTSC settled a civil complaint against FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. (FedEx Ground) in Sacramento County Superior Court for almost \$3.4 million and protections that would deter the company from similar conduct in the future.  
[https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News\\_Release\\_T-08-16.pdf](https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News_Release_T-08-16.pdf)
- DTSC issued a unilateral corrective action order to KW Plastics, a plastics recycler for the battery industry located in Bakersfield, CA, on June 17, 2016. The order directed the company to conduct further investigation of releases or possible releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous waste constituents at three waste handling units (the truck unloading and receiving container, the truck parking area, and the truck scale area) located at its facility.
- DTSC Emergency Response staff is helping families in Kern County recover from a devastating wildfire that destroyed more than 48,000 acres and at least 285 structures, including many homes. On June 28, the Office of Emergency Services asked for DTSC’s assistance in helping cleanup the aftermath of what’s being called the most destructive fire in Kern County history.  
[https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/KernFire\\_Success.pdf](https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/KernFire_Success.pdf)



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

- DTSC is developing a program to train residents of communities impacted by the former Exide Technologies facility for jobs in the environmental field. The Department is creating the program so residents can participate in the revitalization of their communities and to gain skills – such as soil sampling and remediation – that could help them get jobs in environmental-related industries.  
[https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/Job\\_training\\_Success.pdf](https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/Job_training_Success.pdf)
- Since the California State Auditor released their report on DTSC’s cost recovery program in August 2014, DTSC has reduced the number of unresolved audit backlog sites from 1,661 to 112, a 93 percent reduction. In addition, billing system data on all 1661 audit backlog sites is *clean* in that it has been evaluated for accuracy as recommended by the State Auditor in their August 2014 report on DTSC’s cost recovery program. This is the only remaining outstanding recommendation of nine that required DTSC action. DTSC will submit information to the State Auditor to request reclassification of this final recommendation to Fully Resolved in July 2016. As of June 30, 2016, DTSC reduced the original \$194 million audit backlog amount by \$110.8 million. An additional \$67 million in backlog costs are being evaluated for legal action are in active litigation or in bankruptcy. As part of this effort, DTSC standardized its procedures and created ways to track its progress. These steps will help ensure a more effective cost recovery system moving forward.