



Recent DTSC Work to Enhance Protection of Public Health and the Environment August 10, 2016

- On July 25, 2016, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) ordered the Quemetco battery recycling facility in the City of Industry to correct violations related to its failure to have a functioning leak-detection system and maintain its containment building, which holds hazardous lead waste, to minimize the possibility of any release. Quemetco's containment building is required to have a properly functioning leak-detection system because it manages liquid hazardous waste left over from the recycling process. The leak-detection system allows Quemetco and DTSC to confirm the building's thick concrete floor is successfully preventing leaks from reaching the building's foundation, which acts as another barrier that prevents a release to the environment. In issuing the order, the Department is elevating its enforcement actions against Quemetco after issuing a series of violations over the last year, including seven non-minor violations this month.
http://dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News_Release_T-12-16.pdf
- The DTSC Safer Consumer Products (SCP) program has begun rulemaking to list children's foam-padded sleeping products containing the flame retardants TDCPP and TCEP as a product-chemical combination that has the potential to cause harm. This product is the first of three proposed Priority Products for which the department will ask manufacturers to find a safer alternative. The two flame retardants are listed as carcinogens by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, can cause chronic health effects, and are especially dangerous to children. The department will hold a public hearing on the proposed regulation on August 29, 2016, in Training Room 1 at the CalEPA Building.
https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News_Release_T-10-16.pdf
- On July 21, 2016, DTSC held a dedication ceremony for the new \$52 million Pyrite Canyon Treatment Facility (PCTF) at the Stringfellow Superfund site in Jurupa Valley (formerly Glen Avon). The state-of-the-art PCTF is an upgraded, modernized and reliable replacement for the aging Pre-Treatment Plant and positions the State to continue the cleanup at the Stringfellow site for more than 30 years. The dedication ceremony included remarks by DTSC Director Barbara Lee, CCAEJ Executive Director Penny Newman, Jurupa Valley Mayor Laura Roughton and Dulce Del Carmen representing Assemblyman Eric Linder's office. A ribbon cutting and tours of the facility followed the dedication ceremony. More than 60 staff, stakeholders, community members and legislative representatives attended the event. <https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/DTSC-Dedicates-New-Treatment-Plant-at-Stringfellow-Site.pdf>



Department of Toxic Substances Control

- Crews from DTSC and its contractors were in Kern County assessing and removing hazardous waste from properties ravaged by fire. An estimated 280 homes burned. From Kern Valley Sun: http://www.kernvalleysun.com/news/hazardous-material-cleanup/article_9ad43e6e-4dea-11e6-a922-bf152dfd335b.html
- Construction is underway for the Salinas Unified School District's first new high school in 21 years. It's a project that couldn't have been done without DTSC, which oversaw the cleanup of the former farmland the school is being built on. The school is expected to open for the 2018-19 academic year.
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/Salinas_New_School_Success.pdf
- DTSC has partnered with two academic and workforce training providers, Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) and the University of California Los Angeles Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (UCLA-LOSH) for the first phase of the Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities Program (WERC). This program is designed to train local residents from communities near the now-closed Exide facility to perform sampling and assessment fieldwork, where DTSC has included a 40% local hire requirement. Participants in the program will receive environmental skills training, health and safety training, college credits for training and work experience, access to LATTC student health care and supportive resources, pre-employment life skills training, and support for seeking sustainable employment. The next steps in the Work Program include expanding training on soil remediation, lead hazard control, interior home cleaning, landscaping, and health education. Thirty certified Lead Sampling Technicians will graduate from the program on August 15th.
- DTSC is actively recruiting 15 permanent positions for the Permitting Division to fully implement the process improvements developed under the Permit Enhancement Work Plan, which will sustain timely permitting actions, mitigate the incidence of facilities operating for extended periods of time on expired permits; and improve the clarity, consistency, protectiveness and enforceability of the permits issued.