



Update on Exide suspension

DTSC plans to hold meetings and briefings in May with key community members in Vernon, where the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) forced Exide Technologies to suspend operations at a battery recycling plant.

The first meeting will be with a few key stakeholders on May 9 or 10. A larger community briefing will be held via conference call later in the month. The date for that has not yet been set. The sessions are designed to provide the community with important and accurate information regarding the suspension and next steps.

Exide is expected to file a plan to address the issues and for DTSC to review. The company also has the option of filing a “Notice of Defense” challenging the order. The deadline to file that brief is May 9.

The order that forced Exide Technologies to suspend operations at a battery recycling plant in Southern California remains in effect. DTSC issued the order April 24, 2013, after receiving information the facility in Vernon was leaking hazardous waste into the soil. That information, along with a previous report by the South Coast Air Quality Management District that showed the company couldn’t control airborne emissions, prompted the department to act.

Plant officials told DTSC they have suspended battery breaking and smelting operations, and canceled or diverted scheduled deliveries of spent batteries except for two truckloads that were en route from Canada. The company continues to perform key housekeeping and maintenance functions necessary to comply with air pollution and health laws, so some employees continue to work.

The suspension generated a flurry of news stories that appeared in newspapers as far away as Louisiana, and prompted phone calls and emails from more than a dozen financial analysts and investment firms.