



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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Exide Advisory Group

Advisory Groups are created throughout California and the rest of the country for projects involving hazardous wastes. They provide community members with increased and enhanced opportunities to have their voices heard by regulatory agencies. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have joined together to create and support an advisory group for the Exide Technologies project in Vernon.

What is the purpose of an advisory group?

- The purpose of this advisory group is to create a forum for the diverse interests of the community to discuss their needs and concerns related to the oversight of closure and cleanup work on and around the Exide facility. It creates the opportunity for community interests to be considered early on by the oversight agencies, and keep the community informed about data, plans and work throughout the cleanup process.

How does the advisory group fit in with other elements of public outreach?

- Advisory group meetings are one of a variety of public outreach methods that will be used to engage the community. They enhance, increase and complement the opportunities for the public to provide input, and do not replace other outreach such as public meetings, workshops, and open houses. All other outreach activities will be continued. Advisory group meetings are open to the public, and will be announced publicly. Each agenda will have an opportunity for members of the public to speak.

What is the role of an advisory group member?

- In the role of a member of the advisory group you would be expected to:
 - Attend meetings, which will occur monthly initially, and then every other month or quarterly, or as necessary.
 - Regularly review a wide variety of technical documents and plans
 - Fully participate in those meetings, by being prepared to discuss agenda items.

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- Actively question, and provide advice and comment on data, and proposed courses of action.
 - Represent the community's interest
 - Act as a conduit for the exchange of information with the community
- In order to support you an independent technical advisor will be made available.

What is the role of the regulatory agencies?

- The regulatory agencies will provide you in a timely fashion with information on the progress of work, technical information, and proposed courses of action.

DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District are working cooperatively to provide the administrative support for the meetings including:

- Taking notes
- Creating and distributing agendas
- Posting information on our web sites
- Informing the general public about the meetings
- Securing meeting locations
- Providing Spanish translation, and
- Co-chairing the meetings

In order to encourage open and free discussion, a full transcript of the meeting will not be taken; rather the notes will capture the direction of the discussion, and indicate the action items and the advice provided.

- The regulatory agencies will listen and seriously consider input.

How Will the Meetings be Conducted?

- Each meeting will have a purpose and agenda. Because the meetings are open to the public a Spanish translator will be provided.
- There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting.
- At each meeting the advisory committee will review action items from the prior meetings, present or update advisory group members on the progress of the work, discuss upcoming work, review and discuss new information.
- Each meeting will include time for the discussion of upcoming agendas.

Technical Advisor

Since April, DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District have worked cooperatively to establish a contract for a technical advisor who can work with the community through the advisory group. The advisor would provide assistance in interpreting data, reports and recommended actions arising from the cleanup and closure activities associated with the Exide facility. Starting on July 1, \$50,000 a year for two years, (a total of \$100,000) will be available for a technical advisor.

What is an independent technical advisor?

The technical advisor assists the community by:

- Reviewing and interpreting site-related documents and data regarding the cleanup.
- Interpreting the health aspects associated with information found in site-related documents
- Meeting with your group to explain technical information about the site
- Participating in public meetings to help clarify site information
- Helping you communicate your concerns and preferences

The contract will enable the advisory group to access expertise to assist the community in better understanding:

- Sampling plans and reports
- Risk assessment
- Documents to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Draft cleanup or closure documents
- And other information generated during this process

Because we will deal with a number of technical issues requiring different technical expertise, it is likely that several technical experts will fill the role of technical advisor.

The Statement of Work based on USEPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities program, broadly outlines the role of the advisor, as well as qualifications such as:

- A demonstrated knowledge of hazardous or toxic waste issues, redevelopment issues, public health, or relocation policies and relocation-related issues.
- Academic training in science, public health, engineering or a related field.
- Demonstrated writing and technical presentation skills, and experience working with community groups.
- Knowledge of the Spanish language.

DTSC and SCAQMD are working with EPA, and some of you to identify potential candidates, and will provide the Advisory Group with a list of options before the next meeting on June 11.