



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$40,000 Settlement Reached with Caspian Incorporated

San Diego --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a \$40,000 settlement with Caspian Incorporated (Caspian) for hazardous waste violations at its non-operational facility located at 287 West Aten Road in El Centro

Under terms of the Consent Order (Order), signed on April 27, 2004, Caspian will pay a total of \$40,000, of which \$20,000 is an administrative penalty and \$20,000 is reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC. A copy of the Order formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC website at www.dtsc.c.gov.

The settlement stems from violations observed by during December 9, 1999 and January 10, 2000 inspections at the Caspian facility. Caspian was cited for illegal storage of approximately 60,000 gallons of caustic aluminum etchant waste in three large storage tanks. The three open topped 60,000 gallon tanks used for storage were each approximately half full and partially covered with sheets of plywood which did not completely cover the tanks.

The aluminum waste was brought to the El Centro facility from Caspian's San Diego facility in the mid-1980s. After DTSC's inspections, the wastes were removed from the tanks and sent to a recycling facility in Texas. The tanks were also disassembled and removed from the facility.

Caspian has corrected the violation listed in the Order and is back in compliance with the Hazardous Waste Control Law.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.