



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$162,500 Settlement Reached with Hightower Plating and Manufacturing Company

Los Angeles - - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has reached a settlement with Hightower Plating and Manufacturing Company (HPMC) for hazardous waste violations at its facility located at 2090 North Glassell Street in Orange. HPMC generates and treats hazardous waste at this facility.

Under terms of the Consent Order (Order), signed on July 8, 2004, HPMC will pay a total of \$162,500 of which approximately \$90,161 is an administrative penalty, approximately \$12,231 is reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC, and approximately \$60,107 as a Supplemental Environmental Project payable to the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Enforcement Training Account. A copy of the Order formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC Web site at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Hightower/Hightower_ENF_CO.pdf.

The settlement stems from violations observed at the facility by DTSC inspectors on January 22, 2003. Violations noted were:

- Treating plating bath residues containing cyanide without a permit or authorization
- Failure to keep containers of incompatible acidic and cyanide-bearing wastes separate
- Failure to repair a damaged secondary containment system
- Failure to keep at least 17 containers holding hazardous waste closed except when adding or removing waste
- Failure to remove a leaking hazardous waste tank system from service and repair the leak
- Failure to label at least 23 containers holding hazardous waste with required information
- Failure to remove spilled plating bath residues from the ground in the plating process area
- Failure to prepare a written closure plan for the facility

HPMC will receive a \$5,000 reduction of its settlement if the Plating Manager and the Waste Water Operator at the facility obtain certificates of satisfactory completion of hazardous waste management courses at the California Compliance School (CCS). CCS provides students with "hands-on" instruction on how to comply with hazardous waste statutes and regulations. HPMC must submit the certificates to DTSC within 185 days of the effective date of this Order to receive the penalty reduction.

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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.