



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

---

## Department of Toxic Substances Control

---

**T - 12- 05**

For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2005

Contact: Jeanne Garcia  
818.551.2176  
Ron Baker  
916.324.3142

### **\$25,000 Settlement Reached with Mel Bernie and Company, Inc.**

Los Angeles --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced it has reached a settlement with Mel Bernie and Company, Inc. (MB&C), which also does business as 1928 Jewelry Company, for hazardous waste violations at its facility at 3000 Empire Avenue in Burbank, Los Angeles County.

Under terms of a Stipulation and Order (Order), signed on February 24, 2005, MB&C will pay a total of \$25,000 as an administrative penalty to DTSC. A copy of the Order formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC's Web site at [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Mel\\_Bernie/MelBernie\\_ENF\\_S-O.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Mel_Bernie/MelBernie_ENF_S-O.pdf).

The settlement stems from violations observed by DTSC inspectors during an inspection at the facility on August 15, 2001. The violations noted were:

- Treating cyanide-bearing hazardous waste residues from the bottom of electroplating baths without first obtaining the proper permit or grant of authorization from DTSC
- Failing to immediately remove from service a leaking hazardous waste storage tank system
- Failing to remove liquid from the secondary containment for the hazardous waste storage tank system within 24 hours, or in as timely a manner as possible
- Failing to apply to DTSC for a facility identification number for a temporary offsite facility owned and operated by MB&C located at 2721 Empire Avenue in Burbank, Los Angeles County where hazardous waste was generated
- Failing to label three 55-gallon waste storage containers used for onsite accumulation of hazardous waste
- Failing to mark 13 empty containers with the date they were emptied
- Failing to adequately label hazardous waste containers
- Failing to manage recyclable scrap metals as hazardous waste by collecting scrap metals in containers that were not properly labeled

As part of the settlement, MB&C has also agreed to send two of its employees to 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. MB&C must submit certificates of satisfactory completion for Modules I through V from CCS for its two employees to DTSC within 185 days of the effective date of the Order.

MB&C has corrected all violations noted during the inspection.

###

***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.***