



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release  
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### **DTSC Enforcement Action: Order Issued to Romic Environmental Technologies**

SACRAMENTO – Responding to a release that occurred at the Romic Environmental Technologies facility on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) today issued an enforcement order that requires a limit to blending of hazardous waste to make fuel; ensures safe operation of fuel blending activities, and reserves the state's right to impose fines and penalties in the future. The order takes effect immediately and does not provide Romic with an opportunity for appeal.

The prohibition applies to any hazardous waste received from off-site, in containers or tanker trucks, for the purpose of fuel blending. Under the conditions of the order, Romic may only blend hazardous waste residues from their onsite (facility) recycling operations. In addition Romic must conduct chemical compatibility testing prior to placement of any residue into a fuel blending tank until further notice. Issuance of the order provides safeguards to the public and the environment by limiting fuel blending operations at the site.

All circumstances pertaining to the June 5<sup>th</sup> Romic incident will be considered as part of the administrative record during DTSC's deliberations on Romic's proposed permit renewal for the company's facility located at 2081 Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

The enforcement order specifically cites Romic "for failure to operate the facility in a manner to minimize the possibility of a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water which could threaten human health or the environment."

In part, the Consent Order to Correct Violations requires Romic to:

- Determine the cause of the June 5<sup>th</sup> incident.
- Determine what measures are necessary to prevent a reoccurrence of the incident.
- Submit a written report to DTSC within 30 days detailing Romic's preliminary findings about the incident and any corrective action that will be taken, which must be then approved by DTSC.
- Prohibits the facility from adding bio-sludge generated from any process into any fuel blending vessel until it has completed the written report.
- Prohibits the facility from accepting any waste stream containing hydroxylamine at any concentration until it has completed the written report.
- Submit a more comprehensive, detailed report within 60 days to DTSC.

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The Order can be viewed on DTSC's Web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

On June 5th, approximately 4,000 gallons of used mixed solvents began reacting inside a Romic tanker and released a fine mist that settled over an empty lot owned by Romic, portions of Bay Road, and adjacent parcels that included a PG&E substation and a wetlands area south of Cooley Landing. The contents of the tanker truck consisted of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene, and acetonitrile.

Romic, a subsidiary of ERP Environmental Services, Inc., has been in operation at the location since 1963. The company stores, treats, and recycles hazardous waste at the facility including: paint thinner, antifreeze, discarded paints and oils, inks, adhesives and a variety of solvents.

DTSC issued Romic a California Hazardous Waste Facility Permit in May, 1986 to store and treat hazardous waste at its East Palo Alto facility. DTSC is currently considering Romic's proposed renewal of its state hazardous waste facility permit for the company's East Palo Alto facility.

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC'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.***