



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

T – 14 – 09

Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2009

Contact: Charlotte Fadipe
(916) 956-2838

John Ulrich Chemical Industry Council of California (CICC)
(916) 812-5405

DTSC Applauds Companies That Reduce Toxic Waste

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Chemical Industry Council of California (CICC) today recognized the efforts of two companies that have voluntarily helped to prevent chemical waste and pollution in California. Ampac Fine Chemicals, based in Rancho Cordova, and Potters Industries, a subsidiary of PQ Corporation of South Gate (Los Angeles county) received recognition awards today at a special ceremony at the Cal/EPA headquarters. The awards were part of the DTSC & CICC sponsored Chemical Industry Pollution Prevention (P2) Challenge Program.

“As Californians become more aware of the long-term effect of pollutants on people’s health and the environment it is encouraging to see companies acting responsibly by voluntarily making changes within their manufacturing process,” said DTSC acting director Maziar Movassaghi. “Both companies should be applauded for taking steps to eliminate significant amounts of waste.”

DTSC has been at the forefront of California’s Green Chemistry Initiative, and CICC has repeatedly voiced its support. Legislation implementing Green Chemistry was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2008. This legislation directs the DTSC to identify and prioritize chemicals of concern and to employ lifecycle analysis in a search for safer alternatives. Chemical companies, like Ampac and Potters Industries, which are voluntarily taking steps to implement the principles of green chemistry and pollution prevention are being recognized as industry leaders. Rather than focusing on dealing with pollutants at the end of the process, these companies have chosen to eliminate them in the first place.

In 2006 DTSC teamed up with CICC to encourage individual chemical facilities to voluntarily prevent industrial pollution. It was the first partnership of its kind. Facilities can reduce pollutants in hazardous waste, and/or implement systems that promote environmental sustainability. The partnership encourages companies to take steps that are good for the environment, the community and for business profitability.

“Pollution Prevention (P2) is good business, and it’s the right thing to do. P2 is continuous improvement in action. While Green Chemistry may be the ultimate pollution prevention, few will have the opportunity to claim ‘breakthrough’ discoveries,” said John Ulrich, Executive Director of CICC. “Nevertheless every employee of every company can find innovative ways to reduce pollution. I’m very proud CICC has embraced this Chemical Industry P2 Challenge

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Program.”

For more on how companies participating in Green Chemistry visit www.dtsc.ca.gov

For more on Chemical companies proactively responding to California’s challenge visit www.cicc.org

Potters Industries manufactures small spherical glass beads which are used by transportation departments to increase the visibility of highway markings. Approximately 500 million pounds of glass beads are used annually in the U.S. Studies have found that some glass beads have exceedingly high levels of Arsenic and other heavy metals which independent studies have shown can leach out into the surrounding environment. Potters Industries has led an effort to establish a voluntary standard to reduce the heavy metals used in these beads to less than or equal to 200 parts per million. Potters Industries converts some 12 million pounds of scrap glass, destined for California landfills, into glass beads which enhance the safety of California motorists

AMPAC makes ingredients that are used in pharmaceuticals and over the counter medications. It has streamlined parts of its chemical manufacturing process to reduce the use of organic solvents by as much as twenty percent. Ampac has twice before been recognized by DTSC and CICC for its innovative P2 approach.



Maziar Movassaghi, acting director DTSC and John Ulrich, CICC present Chemical Industry Pollution Prevention award to Potters Industries Inc. (June 2009)



Maziar Movassaghi, acting director DTSC and John Ulrich, CICC present Chemical Industry Pollution Prevention award to Ampac Fine Chemicals. (June 2009)

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to protect public health, safety, and the environment from toxic harm.