



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Department Adopts Assessment of Administrative Penalty Regulations

SACRAMENTO - The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced the approval of regulations that provide a standard and systematic approach to the assessment of administrative penalties. The regulations, approved by the Office of Administrative Law, were filed with the Secretary of State August 24, 2001 and became effective upon filing.

The regulations provide DTSC guidance when calculating penalties for violations of hazardous waste laws. According to the regulations, it is the potential harm to human health or the environment caused by the violation and how significantly the violation deviates from law that determines the initial penalty amount.

Other notable features of the regulations are the discretion to assess a single initial penalty for the same or similar multiple violations and a method of calculating penalties for violations that continue for more than one day.

A copy of the regulations is available for downloading from the DTSC website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov> under the "Current Events" section.

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."