



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION CLOSES AAD DISTRIBUTION

Sacramento – The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the issuance of a Modified Preliminary Injunction and the closure of AAD Distribution and Dry Cleaning Services, Inc. (AAD) located at 2306 E. 38th Street in Vernon, Los Angeles County. The injunction, issued by the Los Angeles Superior Court, prohibits AAD from accepting any shipment of hazardous waste or hazardous material if ADD is the interim or final destination of the waste. The facility was ordered closed on September 15, 2000. The facility is to remain closed until further order of the court.

DTSC Director Ed Lowry commented:

"The issuance of this injunction and the closure of the AAD facility is the culmination of efforts by the DTSC and the Attorney General to effectively cease operations at a facility that was not in compliance with the State's hazardous waste management laws regarding storage and secondary containment. These requirements are designed to protect public health and the environment."

The Court's action stems from a number of DTSC inspections at the facility, and a civil complaint filed by the State Attorney General, on behalf of DTSC, on February 26, 1999. The complaint was amended on February 14, 2000.

While in operation, AAD used the Vernon facility to treat and store hazardous wastes generated by the dry cleaning industry including; dry cleaning cartridge filters, still bottoms and diatomaceous earth. AAD treated the wastes by distilling and recovering the solvent perchloroethylene (PCE).

A number of compliance evaluation inspections conducted by DTSC's Statewide Compliance Division revealed numerous violations. DTSC inspectors found more than 1,000 containers, including an assortment of drums, barrels, and tanks, that were stored in a location outside of the approved storage area. In addition, the inspectors noted that the containers were stored without required secondary containment.

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In addition to the restriction on receiving waste, AAD is required to store 670 containers in the storage area, and provide adequate aisle space in areas designated for containers. The facility is prohibited from stacking containers more than three high and each container is required to be securely bound and placed on a pallet.

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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 management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.