

# COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

## Proposed Permit Renewal for Atlas Precious Metals, Inc., 640 South Hill Street, Suite 743, Los Angeles, California 90014

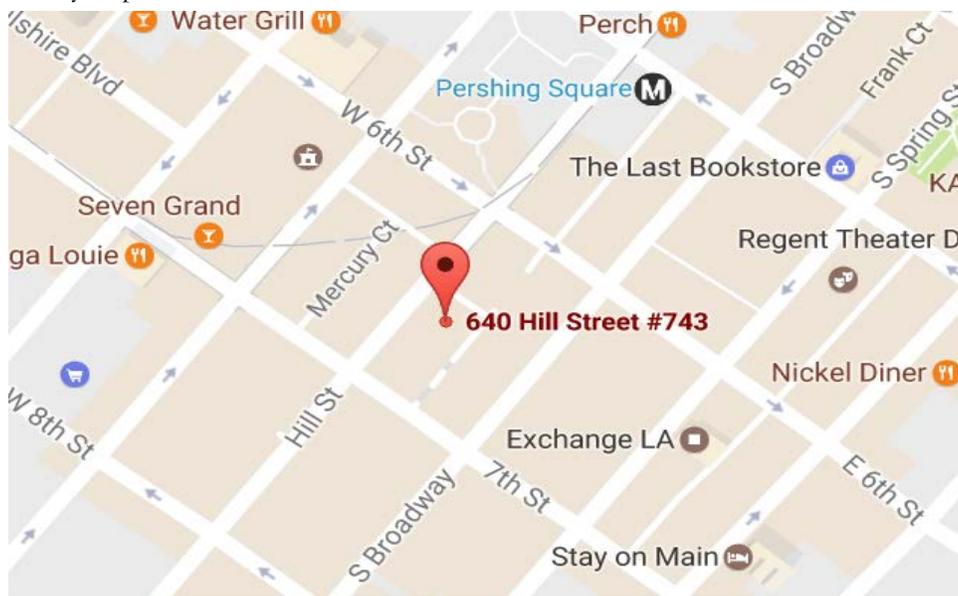
Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Elsa Lopez al número (818) 717-6571

Kung gusto mong pabigkas na isaling-wika sa Tagalog ang impormasyong nasa public notice na ito, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan kay Jose Marcos (714) 484-5492.

如您需要一份中文說明簡訊或有任何疑問，請電 714-484-5406 與黃則忠先生或 714-484-5485 與張寧武先生聯絡。

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the draft Standardized Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) renewal proposed for Atlas Precious Metals, Inc. (Atlas) at 640 South Hill Street, Suite 743 in Los Angeles, California (see location below). The facility currently stores and treats jewelry sweeps, its sole waste stream, which is considered hazardous waste in California. Jewelry sweeps or dust are produced when jewelry manufacturers grind the jewelry products to polish them. The dust or sweeps produced are then sent to Atlas for further processing.

The Permit renewal, if approved, will allow Atlas to continue to store and treat up to a maximum of 3,000 pounds of jewelry sweeps. There will be no change to the facility's operation or waste stream.



Atlas Precious Metals, Inc. Location Map (sourced from Google Maps)

### Public Comment Period



March 16 to May 3, 2017

A 45-day public comment period is being held to receive public comments on the draft Permit. All public comments must be post-marked or e-mailed by May 3, 2017, and sent to:

**Joanna Louie**  
**DTSC Project Manager**

700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94710  
[Joanna.Louie@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Joanna.Louie@dtsc.ca.gov)  
510-540-3957

A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project, but can be arranged if there is enough public interest.

Documents relating to the draft Permit application can be viewed at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071 Phone (213) 228-7211 for more information.

## FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Atlas facility is in an enclosed room that is approximately 751 square feet. It has been zoned "C5" for commercial uses by the city of Los Angeles. The proposed Permit will include two (2) permitted storage units and seven (7) permitted treatment units as described below.

### Hazardous Waste Management Units Authorized in the Permit

**Unit #1: In-Process Storage Area:** This area has dimensions of 6 feet by 9 feet. The maximum capacity is 1500 pounds. Jewelry sweeps are stored here after they are processed through the facility. The processed jewelry sweeps are stored in 5, 10, 15 and 35 gallon container/drums. Each container/drum represents an individual processed batch. The typical storage time is less than one week but will not exceed one year of storage. Only solid waste is stored in this area.

**Unit #2: Shipping Area:** This area has dimensions of 5 feet by 9 feet. The processed jewelry sweeps are consolidated in this area prior to shipping to a precious metal refiner. The jewelry sweeps are stored in 35 or 55 gallon containers/drums. The typical storage time is two weeks but will not exceed one year. Only solid waste is stored in this area.

**Unit #3: Roasting Kiln:** This unit is made up of two roasting kilns, Roasting Kiln #1 and Roasting Kiln #2. Each kiln has the same capacity and size. The jewelry polishing and sweeps upon acceptance are placed in trays which are then placed into each kiln. The kilns are used to heat the jewelry sweeps to remove polish and to dry them. Each operation is conducted as a batch operation. The average drying time is 2 hours. All kiln emissions are vented into an afterburner which is regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Each kiln has an after burner that had dimensions of 17 inches by 17 inches by 37 inches and operates at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Unit #4: Ball Mills:** This unit is made up of two ball mills, Ball Mill #1 and Ball Mill #2. Each ball mill has the same capacity and size. After the sweeps are dried

in the kilns, they are placed into the Ball Mills #1 and #2. The ball mills are used to reduce the size of the jewelry sweeps to less than 60 mesh size. When the milling process is complete, the sweeps are removed into a pan placed beneath each ball mill. The ball mills operate as a batch operation. Each batch is 30 pounds and takes 15 minutes to grind.

**Unit #5: Screens:** This unit is made up of two screens, Screen #1 and Screen #2. Each screen has the same capacity. Screen #1 has a diameter of 18 inches and Screen #2 has a diameter of 24". The jewelry sweeps after being milled are placed into the screens. The screens separate the jewelry sweeps into those that are less than 60 mesh size and those that are larger than 60 mesh size. The jewelry sweeps that are larger than 60 mesh size are transferred to the in-process storage area and the sweeps that are less than 60 mesh size are sent to the cone blender. Each operation is conducted by batch. Each batch size is 50 pounds and a typical cycle takes less than 30 minutes to complete.

**Unit #6: Cone Blender:** The jewelry sweeps less than 60 mesh are placed in the cone blender to create a uniformly blended sample to determine precious metal content. The blending is conducted as a batch operation. Each batch can be between 50 to 400 pounds and takes about one hour to blend. After being blended, a sample is taken to measure precious metal contents and the rest of the waste is sent to the in-process storage area. The cone blender is made from carbon steel and brick and has a diameter of 30 inches and a length of 40 inches.

## FACILITY OPERATIONS

Atlas accepts jewelry sweeps (fine metal dust) from jewelry manufacturers. The jewelry sweeps are produced when a jewelry manufacturer grinds the final jewelry product to polish it. Upon acceptance of the sweeps, Atlas puts the sweeps into a kiln to remove the polishing. Then the sweeps are milled, blended, sampled and then sent offsite to a metal refiner for final processing.



## PERMIT DETERMINATION PROCESS

Facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste are required to obtain a permit from DTSC. Once an application is received, DTSC conducts a comprehensive technical review of the permit application. Once the review is completed, DTSC makes a proposed permit decision and either prepares a draft hazardous waste facility permit (as in this case), or a permit denial for public review and comment. DTSC issues a public notice discussing the proposed permit decision and requests comment from the public and key stakeholders. Comments made by the public, applicant, and government agencies are considered in making DTSC's final permit determination.

## PERMITTING HISTORY

DTSC issued a Standardized hazardous waste facility permit to Atlas to operate a hazardous waste storage facility on May 23, 2006. The permit has an expiration date of May 22, 2016.

Atlas submitted a Permit Application to DTSC on January 29, 2016 to renew their Permit. State law allows Atlas to continue to operate under the terms of the 2006 permit until DTSC makes a final decision on Atlas's application.

The Permit Application underwent DTSC reviews and required revisions. On March 14, 2017, DTSC determined that the Atlas Permit Application was technically complete.

## ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

The Department periodically conducts unannounced inspections at Atlas. Since 2011, Atlas has not received any violations.

## DRAFT PERMIT AND PROPOSED PERMIT CONDITIONS

A Permit is used to protect public health and the environment, therefore DTSC routinely adds conditions to proposed permits to address the uniqueness of the project. The following summarizes some special conditions in draft Permit.

Waste Acceptance Limitation: The Permittee is prohibited from conducting any hazardous waste transfer, storage, treatment or other management activity unless it is specifically described in this Permit or otherwise authorized by law.

Storage Maximum: For the purpose of calculating the permitted maximum capacity limitations for storage, all containers in the authorized units are assumed to be full, and all hazardous waste that is stored or located in an authorized unit shall be included in the calculation for that unit.

Spill Notification: In the event that any cracks, gaps or tears are detected in a hazardous waste management unit, repairs shall be initiated as soon as possible and completed within one week of discovery of the problem. The Permittee shall notify DTSC within 24 hours whenever a crack, gap or tear is found. Within seven days of discovery of the problem, the Permittee shall notify DTSC in writing of the corrective measures that have been taken.

## CEQA PROCESS

DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption on X in accordance with the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines, section 15062, et seq. of California Code of Regulations, title 14. DTSC has determined that the activities in question, with certainty, will have no possibility of a significant environmental effect.

## CORRECTIVE ACTION

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was done for this Facility on October 2, 2015. The ESA stated that no direct evidence of the presence of hazardous materials was found at the Site. The ESA concluded that no corrective action was needed. DTSC reviewed the ESA and concurred with the ESA's conclusion. DTSC have not documented any incidents of spills or releases at the facility. Therefore, no corrective action was needed at this time.

At the close of the comment period, DTSC will consider all comments received and make a final decision. A written response to all comments received will become part of the administrative record. The Response to Comments document will be forwarded to everyone who submits comments.

A notice of the final decision will be mailed to the applicant and to each person who has submitted written and oral comments or requested notice of the final permit determination. The information repositories will contain a record of DTSC's final permit decision, all comments received and DTSC's Responses to Comments.

**Where to Find the Documents:** The draft Permit and other related documents regarding the former NPR-1 Closure Project are available for review at the following repositories:

Los Angeles Central Library,  
630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Phone (213) 228-7211 for more information.

Documents Available Online at the DTSC  
EnviroStor database:  
[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp\\_profile\\_repo\\_rt.asp?global\\_id=C.AL.000098454&starttab=](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp_profile_repo_rt.asp?global_id=C.AL.000098454&starttab=)  
(Click the “Community Involvement” tab)

**Whom to Contact for More Information:** If you have any questions about the proposed draft Permit, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Joanna Louie  
DTSC Project Manager  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Phone: (510) 540-3957  
Email: [Joanna.Louie@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Joanna.Louie@dtsc.ca.gov)

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For Media Inquiries Only  
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DTSC Public Information Officer  
(916) 323-3372  
E-mail: [Ross.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ross.Edmondson@dtsc.ca.gov)

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to receive future mailings regarding the Atlas project, please complete and return this coupon to the address listed below. If you wish to submit comments and/or questions regarding the Draft Permit, please state them below or on a separate piece of paper. To be added to the Atlas mailing list, please check the box.

Mr. Joanna Louie, Office of Permitting, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California 94710.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: