

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## QUEMETCO INC. CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**DATE AND TIME:** August 31, 2016 AT 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Hacienda Heights Community Center, 1234 Valencia Ave, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 **Phone: (626) 333-3250**

**For more Information:** Elsa Lopez - DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
818-717-6571

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency overseeing the ongoing Quemetco environmental investigation and the soil sampling program in the right-of-ways, residential and commercial areas within a quarter mile of the Quemetco battery-recycling plant. The plant is located at 720 S. 7th Ave., in the City of Industry. We encourage residents within the quarter mile perimeter to sign up for soil sampling and to ask questions and get verbal preliminary results from the crew as the sampling is occurring.

### SOIL INVESTIGATION

In accordance with the approved RCRA Facility Investigation Workplan the following has been completed or is ongoing:

### LEAD SOIL SAMPLING:

- Over 230 soil samples have been collected and analyzed from the right-of-ways, creeks, creek access roads, catch basins, and drainages from the Quemetco property. Nine of the samples collected on Quemetco's property had concentrations of lead above 1000 ppm. Two samples outside of the Quemetco property exceeded 1000 ppm.
- DTSC has to date collected 150 residential access agreements and 9 commercial property agreements. Twelve residents have declined sampling.
- As of August 18, 2016, soil sampling at 88 residential properties has been completed. Over 4000 soil samples were collected and analyzed in the field with an XRF, a handheld instrument used to measure concentrations of lead and other metals in the soil. A summary of the data indicated the following:
  - 64% of the samples are below 80 parts per million (ppm)
  - 35% are between 80 and 320 ppm
  - Less than 1% are above 320 ppm
  - The higher concentrations of lead are within the top 6 inches of soil near roof drip lines.
  - The concentrations rapidly decrease to less than 80 ppm below 6-inches and as samples are collected away from the homes.
  - DTSC is preparing letters to owners and tenants to notify them of preliminary results.
- Commercial properties will be sampled after the residential properties are completed. DTSC will continue to ask for residential access agreements by mail and by door-to-door outreach.
- Update on Ambient/Background Sampling Work plan and Source of Lead Study (Fingerprinting):
  - Quemetco is in the process of revising both work plans.
  - Ambient/Background Sampling Work plan soil sampling will begin before the end of August.



## HISTORY AND SITE LOCATION

The Quemetco Facility is a recycling facility that smelts and reclaims metal, plastic, and acid from used batteries. The facility was constructed at its present location in 1959. Lead is recovered from automotive batteries and other lead bearing materials. The facility treats byproducts and waste in order to minimize the amount going offsite. The battery casings are crushed into small plastic chips which are recycled, and the battery acid is also recovered and utilized in the water treatment process. The facility is located at 720 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, City of Industry, California. Communities within one mile include Hacienda Heights, Avocado Heights/La Puente, and Wildwood Mobile Country Club.



### HOW TO READ YOUR RESULTS:

About 30 to 45 days after your soil sampling is completed and the results are returned from the lab, you will receive a letter along with a copy of your soil sampling results. You will receive the following:

1. Letter
2. Diagram of property with tested locations and lead readings
3. Chart of all lead findings  
XRF Data, Lab Data- Lead/Arsenic
4. Supplemental Report mailed upon request

#2 Is a layout of your home and the locations of the sampling. Each location has a graph with the five depths and the readings for lead in part per million (PPM)

#3 Table 1 is the X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) and analytical laboratory data. Each sample is assigned an ID and depth. On this page you will see the XRF data for lead followed by the lab data for the five samples sent to the lab for lead and arsenic.

#4 A supplemental report will be mailed upon request

### What Are My Results?

If you have areas on your property with greater than 400 parts per million of lead in the soil, DTSC recommends that you limit your exposure to those areas.

### How Can I Protect My Family From Lead?

You can take actions to limit or prevent lead exposure from soil and lead paint.

- Do not let children play on bare soil
- Cover bare soil with grass, wood chips, or cement
- Use a doormat and clean it often
- Free Blood Lead Testing program by calling (626) 364-1281
- For homes built before 1978, chipping or peeling paint may create dangerous dust. Call 1-800-LA-4-LEAD for safe repairs

**We will have informational brochures at the August 31, 2016 informational meeting.**



### Glossary

- PB** – Chemical symbol for the element of lead  
**AS** – Chemical symbol for the element of arsenic  
**PPM** – Parts Per Million  
**XRF** – X-ray Fluorescence – hand held x-ray tool

### Whom to contact for more information:

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### For media related inquiries, please contact:

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