



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

STATEMENT

T – 6 – 13

Deborah O. Raphael, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2013

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Response to Speaker John A. Perez's Call for Action at Exide Plant

SACRAMENTO – Following is a statement from Debbie Raphael, Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

We are very concerned about the latest data coming from the South Coast Air Quality Management District on arsenic emissions at the Exide Plant in Vernon, and agree with Speaker Perez's desire that environmental concerns with this facility be addressed immediately.

On Thursday, April 4 and again today, we sent a team of inspectors to the Exide plant and are reviewing the inspector's findings at this moment. Our review will be complete shortly and we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that residents in the surrounding community are protected and that this facility meets state standards.

As a result of the AQMD report indicating significant health risk to the community and our ongoing concerns, DTSC sent inspectors to the site to determine whether Exide is operating in compliance with state hazardous waste requirements. Our findings, coupled with those of AQMD and our evaluation of the facility's compliance history, will determine our immediate response, which could range from penalties to shutting down operations.

On March 13, DTSC ordered Exide to pay \$195,000 in penalties for violating hazardous waste laws and compelled the company to correct the violations, which included illegal storage of lead and inadequate operations of a hazardous waste storage unit. DTSC will inform the Speaker, the Legislature and the affected communities immediately of the results of our inspection and our resulting enforcement action.

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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 DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.