



Lead-acid Batteries and Alternatives Public Workshop

Please join us for the upcoming public workshop on lead-acid batteries and alternatives on November 6, 2017, in Sacramento, California. The public is invited to attend, address the panel of experts, and provide information to the CalEPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this public workshop is to gather information on lead-acid batteries and alternatives. According to California law passed in September 2016, DTSC Safer Consumer Products (SCP) is required to evaluate lead-acid batteries as a potential Priority Product. Because the hazards of the chemicals in lead-acid batteries (lead, arsenic, and sulfuric acid) are well known, exposure is the remaining factor to evaluate. Identifying alternatives is also part of the evaluation.

BACKGROUND

Although lead-acid batteries have many applications and sizes (e.g., mining lanterns, cars, forklifts, cell towers, solar panel energy storage), the largest use is as 12V car batteries. Recycling/smelting operations at Exide Technologies (Vernon, California) resulted in

contamination and required facility closure and cleanup operations. This evaluation and a related DTSC Community Protection and Hazardous Waste Reduction Initiative were prompted by that legacy. Today, the only remaining lead smelter in California is the Quemetco facility (City of Industry).

One car on the US market does not use a lead-acid battery. The 2017 Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid has a lithium-iron-phosphate 12V battery instead. Similar 12V batteries entered the motorcycle market in 2011. Such innovations as well as ways to reduce the amount of lead in batteries and emitted during recycling are of interest to SCP. Consideration of all life cycle stages and potential impacts, however, is essential.

MEETING DETAILS

The public workshop will include a public comment period that follows a variety of 30-minute presentations on the uses of lead-acid batteries, the regulatory landscape they face, lithium-iron-phosphate batteries as a potential alternative in vehicles, automobile manufacturer perspectives, and issues such as recycling.

Date & Time: Monday, November 6, 2017
9:00 am – 5:00 pm Pacific Time

Location: CalEPA Headquarters
Klamath Room
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Registration information (for either in-person or webinar attendance), full agenda, and background document with focus questions will be posted on the SCP workshops page:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SCP/Workshops.cfm>