NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Southern California Permitting and Corrective Action Branch
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311

Project Title: Interim Corrective Measure Workplan for Exide Technologies, Inc.

Project Location: 2700 South Indiana Street, Vernon

County: Los Angeles

Project Description: This project is for DTSC's approval of an Interim Measure (IM) to address volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in the soil by implementing a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at the Exide Technologies, Inc. facility site ("the Site"). The SVE was selected as a presumptive measure based on evaluation of the 2006 Phase 2 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) report. The SVE is designed as a pilot study that will have the capacity for scaling up to a system with more extraction points based on observed system behavior and a soil vapor monitoring array. The SVE system is expected to decrease the trichloroethene (TCE) and other volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations in the unsaturated soil or vadose zone and reduce the threat of the continuing migration of that contamination from the vadose zone into the groundwater. The SVE treatment is also expected to reduce the potential risk of vapor immigration to indoor air. The existing quarterly groundwater monitoring program will continue and will serve to evaluate the SVE's effectiveness for on-going groundwater cleanup.

Background:

The Facility occupies approximately 15-acres of land with multiple buildings comprising an active battery recycling operation that operates under Interim Status. In 1922, Morris P. Kirk and Sons, Inc., initiated lead smelting and metals processing operations at this location. Prior to that, the property was reportedly a "bone yard" for a meat rendering plant. Site operations consist of battery breaking and smelting to recover lead. A draft RCRA-equivalent Part B permit has been noticed to the public together with an Environmental impact Report, but the final decision has not been made. A Corrective Action Consent Agreement (CACA) was entered into by the Facility and DTSC in 2002 for the oversight of RCRA corrective action. Since 1986, groundwater monitoring has revealed 120 to 5,500 micrograms per liter (ug/l) of trichloroethylene (TCE), and it was suspected that the source had been, at least in part, related to the old metals extrusion building that had been demolished sometime after 1978.

In 2006, the Phase 2 RFI report indicated vapor-phase halogenated volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination in the vadose zone under the area of the old mixed metals extrusion building. The area is currently paved with asphalt. The approximately 10,000 square-foot former building was used to extrude metal bars and stock them into various shapes. During operation, TCE was applied to metal bars as a cooling medium. In June 2006, under the CACA, DTSC requested that the Facility submit an Interim Measures workplan to address the vadose zone contamination associated with the area of the old mixed metals extrusion building. The highest observed TCE soil vapor concentration was 220 micrograms per liter, which exceeds the California Human Health Screening Level (CHHSL) of 1.77 California Human Health Screening Levels g/l. Samples taken had benzene concentrations up to 0.3 µg/l, and tetrachloroethene concentrations up to 2 µg/l which exceed CHHSLs (0.12 µg/l and 0.6 µg/l, respectively). The Facility intends to continue its existing industrial operation.

Project Activities:

A maximum of sixteen (16) SVE wells will be installed; two at different depths at each of eight locations. An estimate will be made of the overlap of radius of influence and additional extraction points added as necessary. This estimate will be made using an array consisting of a minimum of four vapor probe nests with probes set at a minimum of four depths. The numbers, locations, and depths of the SVE wells and probe nests are determined based on the data described in the 2006 Phase 2 RFI report. Additional extraction or monitoring points may be added, or depths changed, based on lithologic conditions encountered during installation or observations during operation. The SVE system is equipped with an air/water separator and activated carbon treatment vessels. Permits for the SVE system installation will be obtained from the South Coast Air Quality Management district (SCAQMD). The ground water investigation will continue to be conducted concurrently with the SVE installation and operation. Groundwater remediation will be addressed as part of the final remedy for the Facility.

The SVE system will remain operational until the chemicals of concern decrease to clean-up performance standards that will be developed based on a site-specific health risk assessment for commercial/industrial Site use and modeling to ensure that VOCs are no longer discharging into the underlying groundwater. The SVE system will be turned off to allow the VOCs to rebound, and soil gas samples will be collected to validate the residual concentrations. Soil matrix samples will be obtained from any clayey horizons between the surface and ground water. Based on the results of the sampling, the SVE system may be restarted and operated until the levels decrease to acceptable levels for the Interim Measures. A site-specific risk assessment will be performed using confirmatory data to verify that no unacceptable level of risk remains above the industrial level at the Site and before the SVE system can be decommissioned. In the event that an unacceptable level of risk remains based on post-SVE confirmation sampling, the SVE system may be turned back on and operated until acceptable concentrations are achieved.

In order to protect workers at the Site and in the surrounding area, SVE well installations and confirmation sampling activities will be conducted in accordance with the DTSC-approved IM Workplan and Health and Safety Plan.

The Site is not on a Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List, pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5.

The estimated project commencement date is May 1, 2009. The project is expected to take approximately one (1) year and six (6) months. Depending on the SVE's effectiveness, continuation of the SVE or other alternatives to address the VOCs will be considered at the time that DTSC selects the overall corrective action remedy. Further CEQA evaluation will occur at that time.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Advanced Geosciences on behalf of Exide Technologies, Inc.

Exemption Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
☒ Categorical Exemption: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15330
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

- The project is a small short term "removal" action to eliminate the threat of release of hazardous substances by SVE and thereby reduce potential risk to workers and visitors at the existing Facility and will cost less than $1 million. The estimated cost is $ 157, 613.

- The Site is not in a known biological, historical or cultural resource area according to the City of Vernon Draft General Plan 2007.

- The Interim Measure SVE serves to remove contaminants from the Site using well-established methods and will comply with applicable permits.

- The Facility is located in a heavy industrial use area, and the surrounding facilities are heavy industrial. There are no residences within three quarters of a mile. There are no sensitive receptors (residences) within a quarter mile radius of the Facility.

- Activities will be conducted pursuant to the means and methods described in the Interim Measure (IM) Workplan and consistent with the Health and safety Plan provided in the IM Workplan. The IM Workplan includes a Site Health and Safety Plan that incorporates DTSC, OSHA, Cal OSHA and Federal health and safety regulation requirements. The workers' training will be in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, and workers will be properly equipped for the material to be handled.

- The project Site is located in an industrialized area with little vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The Site is secured with fencing and locks, and restricted from public access. Controls will be in place to protect the health and safety of employees, workers, and the public from on-site activities. Routine monitoring of the SVE treatment system discharge will be conducted on a regular basis, in accordance with the existing SCAQMD permit. The asphalt cover and lack of any adjacent building lowers likelihood of migration of VOC's to the any indoor air at the facility.

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Project Manager Name	Project Manager Title	Phone #

Performance Manager or Unit Chief Signature	Date

Phil Chandler	Senior Engineering Geologist	818-717-6608
Unit Chief Name	Unit Chief Title	Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: