

# Frequently Asked Questions

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*DTSC's Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.*

## **Reviewing the RCRA Permit Renewal Application for Ecobat Resources California, Inc. (Ecobat) (Formerly Quemetco, Inc.), City of Industry**

### **Q: What is a DTSC Permit?**

**A:** DTSC permits authorize specific hazardous waste treatment, transfer, storage, and/or disposal operations with conditions and requirements designed to protect people and the environment. A permit is a legally binding document that defines the activities a facility can do and under what conditions. It is the document that DTSC uses to enforce the requirements.

### **Q: What does DTSC require in permit applications?**

**A:** DTSC requires complete information about the facility design and operation, safety standards, monitoring, and reporting. A permit application must include information about the surrounding area such as earthquake and flood risk, details about the kinds of hazardous wastes to be managed, engineering design calculations, and closure and post closure cost estimates. The application must also include procedures for personnel training, inspections, and air and groundwater monitoring (if applicable), and closing the facility safely.

DTSC requires robust plans to protect nearby communities including health risk assessments, emergency coordination, security, and release detections. DTSC also requires information about the facility's potential effects on the environment to satisfy requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **Q: How can I be involved in the permit decision?**

**A:** When DTSC's review of the application is complete, we will make a tentative decision to either deny the permit or release a draft permit with conditions. The tentative decision is then made available for public review and comments. The public notice will specify the start and end dates for a public comment period and will include links and locations where you can find the draft permit decision, CEQA documentation, and supporting information.

The public notice will also include the dates and times for public hearings where DTSC will accept verbal and written comments as well as where you can send written comments. DTSC will consider all comments before making a final decision. If you would like to be added to the list, please let any of us know.

### **Q: Are Ecobat and Quemetco the same facility?**

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**A:** Yes. Since the 1980's the facility has been known as Quemetco. Earlier this year the facility completed a permit modification, changing its name from Quemetco, Inc. to Ecobat Resources California, Inc.

**Q: What kind of hazardous waste does DTSC authorize Ecobat to manage?**

**A:** Most of the hazardous wastes DTSC authorizes Ecobat to manage are used lead-acid batteries that were replaced with new batteries in trucks and cars. Ecobat also recycles some lead-bearing wastes from lead manufacturing industries. California requires these wastes and spent or used lead-acid batteries to be managed as hazardous waste.

**Q: How does DTSC require Ecobat to manage the hazardous battery waste?**

**A:** DTSC requires the batteries be processed in a building with double containment. Processing includes crushing the batteries, separating metallic components from the plastic casings, and removing the acidic liquids.

- DTSC requires the acidic liquids to be treated in a permitted wastewater treatment plant.
- Plastics are shipped offsite for recycling after they are washed and dried.
- Lead components are consolidated in piles in a permitted containment building designed to contain any releases. The lead is then smelted in furnaces and refined to produce lead ingots that are shipped offsite to customers.

**Q: Does DTSC currently regulate Ecobat through a permit?**

**A:** Yes. DTSC issued a permit to Ecobat in 2005. The 2005 Permit regulates current hazardous waste management activities at the facility.

**Q: Has Ecobat submitted an application to renew its current permit?**

**A:** Yes. Ecobat submitted a permit application in March of 2015 to seek authorization to continue its current operations. DTSC requires permittees to submit new permit applications every ten years. By law, Ecobat is allowed to continue operating under the 2005 permit until DTSC makes a decision on their current application.

The permit application is available on Envirostor:

[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp\\_profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=CAD066233966](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp_profile_report.asp?global_id=CAD066233966)

**Q: When will DTSC make a tentative permit decision?**

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**A:** DTSC anticipates making a tentative decision to either deny the permit application or release a draft permit in 2023. When DTSC announces the tentative decision, we will open a 90-day Public Comment Period. We would like to hear your perspective before making a final decision. When making a tentative permit decision, DTSC considers:

- Whether there are any grounds to deny the application (past compliance, responsiveness, payment of fees)
- Whether the proposed operations meet all the regulatory standards
- Whether the proposed operations are safe for nearby workers and communities

**Q: Will DTSC provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation that shows the impacts of DTSC's decision?**

**A:** Yes. DTSC will provide CEQA documentation when the public notice for the tentative decision is released.

**Q: Whom can I contact for further information about Ecobat's permit and its pending renewal application?**

**A:** DTSC will discuss your concerns or answer questions at any time. If you have concerns or questions, please contact Sam Coe – DTSC Permitting Project Manager at [Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov) or 916-255-3587 or Teresa Hernandez – DTSC Public Participation Specialist (**ella habla español**) at [Teresa.Hernandez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Hernandez@dtsc.ca.gov) or 818-717-6568.

**Q: Where can I access more documents and receive information related to Ecobat?**

**A:** You can find documents on DTSC's Envirostor and sign up to be notified when documents are uploaded there or visit our webpage to find the most current information. Sign up for our email list where we share meeting invitations, project updates, and other information regarding our oversight of the facility:

[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp\\_profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=CAD066233966](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp_profile_report.asp?global_id=CAD066233966)

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/hw-projects/quemetco-battery-recycling/>