

Frequently Asked Questions

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 Post-Closure Permit Renewal Application for Ecobat Resources California, Inc. (Ecobat) (Formerly Quemetco, Inc.) City of Industry

Q: What is a DTSC Post-Closure Permit?

A: When a facility plans to close a particular type of regulated unit, DTSC prepares hazardous waste facility post-closure permits to protect people and the environment. These permits require owners or facility operators with closed regulated units to monitor them and maintain any controls installed when the units were closed. This helps to prevent releases from the units to the surrounding environment. Examples include landfills, surface impoundments, and waste piles. DTSC ensures funding for closures by requiring financial assurance when permits are issued.

Q: Which of Ecobat's regulated units does DTSC regulate under a post-closure permit?

A: DTSC requires Ecobat to monitor two regulated units - a closed former surface impoundment and closed former waste piles. Ecobat used the surface impoundment to collect rainwater and wash water from trucks that transported spent batteries. The liquids in the impoundment were then treated in Ecobat's on-site wastewater treatment plant. Ecobat used the waste piles to store broken parts of spent batteries and solid waste from its furnaces.

Both units stored hazardous wastes. In 1995, after Ecobat stopped managing hazardous waste in the units, DTSC, in compliance with the law, required Ecobat to close them. Ecobat removed most of the contaminated soils beneath the units and covered the areas with a concrete cap.

Q: What activities does DTSC require Ecobat to implement?

A: As required by DTSC, Ecobat installed 17 additional groundwater monitoring wells in 2019. The wells are located on-site and offsite. DTSC requires them to collect samples for lead, other metals, and organic chemicals every three months. The samples must be sent to an accredited, third-party lab for analysis. DTSC requires Ecobat to submit the results for DTSC review every three months. The sampling is designed to identify any release to groundwater from the closed units. DTSC also requires Ecobat to maintain the concrete cap and fund ongoing implementation of the post-closure activities until they are no longer required.

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Q: Is groundwater contaminated at Ecobat?

A: There is no contaminant plume coming from the Ecobat facility. While lead, other metals, and organic chemicals have been detected in groundwater beneath Quemetco during the roughly 40 years of monitoring, a contaminant plume is not present beneath the facility. Previously, the groundwater monitoring network was out of compliance with regulations, primarily because monitoring wells dried up with receding groundwater levels. The facility also did not have enough wells in the right locations.

In 2019, DTSC required Ecobat to bring its groundwater monitoring program into compliance by installing deeper wells. The current groundwater program, which complies with regulatory requirements, indicates that the two regulated units are not impacting groundwater.

Q: When did DTSC issue the post-closure permit?

A: DTSC combined the first post-closure permit with Ecobat's operating permit in 2005. DTSC is reviewing Ecobat's permit renewal application for operations and for post-closure.

Q: Does DTSC provide the groundwater monitoring reports?

A: DTSC provides online access to the quarterly groundwater monitoring reports on Envirostor.

<https://bit.ly/QGroundwaterMonitoringReports>



Q: Whom can I contact for further information about Ecobat's existing permit or the post-closure 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 or at 916-255-3587 or Teresa Hernandez – DTSC Public Participation Specialist, **(ella habla español)** at Teresa.Hernandez@dtsc.ca.gov or 818-717-6568.