

DTSC Issues Draft Operating Permit Renewal Decision for Ecobat Facility



Ecobat Draft Operating Permit Decision Summary

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has issued a new draft operating permit for Ecobat Resources California, Inc. (formerly Quemetco) in Los Angeles County. Ecobat is a battery recycling facility that recovers lead mainly from spent lead-acid batteries, which are a hazardous waste in California.

The draft five-year operating permit includes new requirements and strict standards to protect public health and the environment. This permit requires close monitoring of Ecobat’s operations and allows DTSC to take quick action if permit requirements are not met on time.

An extended, 120-day public comment period for this draft permit will be held July through November 2024. DTSC will carefully review and respond to all public comments before issuing a final decision. The draft permit, and information regarding upcoming public workshops can be found on DTSC’s website: dtsc.ca.gov/ecobat-permit-documents. Copies have also been translated into Spanish and Mandarin and placed in five local libraries for in-person viewing.

Overview of the Draft Permit Decision:

Draft Operating Permit



Duration: 5 years



Strength: Contains stronger conditions than the 2005 permit.



Oversight: Addresses facility operations with enhanced safety measures and financial assurance.

Why a 5 year permit?

The Ecobat draft “Operating Permit,” has a five-year term and includes mandatory conditions and a shorter timeframe for early checkpoints to ensure that Ecobat is safely following all permit conditions.

Enhanced Draft Operating Permit Special Conditions

The permit includes stringent conditions to ensure protection of human health and the environment:



Upgrades and Modernization to Operations:

- Five-year assessment of hazardous waste storage and treatment tanks.
- Improve containment building floor, install new leak detection system with new secondary storage containment system.



Desired Outcome:

Safe operations & Preventative Measures

<p><u>On and Offsite Soil, Air, and Water Investigation and Monitoring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual soil sampling around the facility fence line to monitor potential impacts from current emissions. Continue off site soil sampling to investigate potential impacts on nearby residential soil from past emissions. • Construct a new community air monitoring station to measure 24-hour average air concentrations of lead and arsenic. • Continue groundwater sampling underneath and around the facility. 	 <p><u>Desired Outcome:</u> Protected community and meaningful communication</p>
<p><u>Community Reporting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide immediate notification of all shutdowns of emission control devices. • Maintain a website with current emissions data from all air monitoring stations. • Hold annual public meetings to present reports detailing any alleged violations along with monitoring results. 	 <p><u>Desired Outcome:</u> Community Accountability</p>

What's next?

DTSC will make a final decision on this draft permit after thoroughly considering public comments. Responses to public comments will be made available, along with a final permit decision on the DTSC website.

Public Engagement Opportunities

DTSC is committed to involving the community in the Ecobat permit decisions. There are three ways to get involved to share your feedback:

Public Engagement Opportunities

 <p>Submit Written Comments to DTSC: Public Comment Period: 120 days</p>	 <p>Review Key Documents: Available at five local libraries</p>	 <p>Public Hearings: Two sessions during the comment period. Comments can be made at the hearing or submitted online at: dtsc.ca.gov/ecobat-permit-documents</p>
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The second public hearing will be on **Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at the La Puente High School Gymnasium** located at 15615 Nelson Ave. E, La Puente, CA 91744 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The community can also join the Ecobat Community Stakeholders Group, created to gather input and from community leaders on how DTSC can best serve Ecobat's surrounding community. Monthly meetings are open to any interested stakeholders, contact us for details.

The draft Operation and Post-Closure Permits, fact sheets, permit application, and other related information are also available at the La Puente Public Library, Sunkist Library, Rowland Heights Library, Hacienda Heights Library, West Covina Library, online at <https://bit.ly/Ecobat>, or by using the QR code below.

Contact Us:    

Find additional information on our website: dtsc.ca.gov/ecobat-permit-documents or scan the QR code:



Who to Contact at DTSC for Questions:

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