

California Court Issues Stay Against DTSC Suspension Order Given To Battery Recycler

On Monday, a judge in the Superior Court of the State of California granted a stay against a temporary suspension order issued by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) against Exide Technologies, a leading lead-acid battery recycler. The suspension order was issued in April for alleged environmental violations at Exide's Vernon, California recycling plant.

The Court directed the DTSC to appear at a show cause hearing scheduled for July 2 and discuss the order. According to a Court document, "*the public will not suffer if the stay is issued,*" and the judge sounded sympathetic to Exide's motion.

To complicate matters for the DTSC, earlier this month Exide Technologies filed for bankruptcy protection.

A copy of the stay order can be downloaded at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Exide_ENF_TRO.pdf.

US Businessman Sentenced To Prison For Distributing Lead-Tainted Children's Products

The US Consumer Products Safety Commission reported earlier this month that the President of LM Import-Export Inc. (Miami, Florida) had been sentenced to 22 months in a federal prison and fined \$10,000 for "*conspiracy to traffic and smuggle in banned children's products that contained lead and small parts.*"

Among to CPSC, the defendant was charged with conspiring to "*sell and distribute in commerce banned children's products imported from China. These actions were in violation of the Consumer Product Safety Act and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. These products allegedly presented the risk of choking, aspiration, and ingestion, and some contained lead above the federal limits.*"

The CPSC announcement is posted at <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/2013/President-of-LM-Import-Export-Sentenced-to-22-Months-in-Federal-Prison/>.

Arkansas DEQ Opens Consultation On New Types Of Waste Tire Permits

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) proposed to new types of waste tire permits and opened a public comment period on the draft documents. One permit would be used by waste tire collection centers and the other by waste tire processing facilities, including mobile waste tire chopping, baling, cutting, or shredding equipment.

Legacy waste tires remain a challenge for ADEQ. In 2011, under the state's Waste Tire Program, 6,743 tons of waste tires were recycled or directed to beneficial use applications, but 15,953.24 tons were sent to landfill.

The public comment period on the proposed new permits closes on July 12.

Get more information at <http://www.adeg.state.ar.us/poa/pa/news.asp>.

Statistics & Trends

Hong Kong Launches Campaign Against Marine Litter

Earlier this month, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a campaign to keep Hong Kong shorelines free from litter. The EPD said the campaign features two messages: "*Do not use disposable items.*" and "*Clean up your waste, take it away and recycle.*"

The campaign includes a dedicated web site that provides data on marine litter amounts, composition and trends; information on an marine waste inter-departmental working group; environmental resources available to address marine litter; and links to an on-going Hong Kong marine litter study.

Get more information at http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/index.html

London Expands Waste Lamp And Battery Recycling Programs

Last week, the City of London announced it was partnering with Recolight, an industry-sponsored waste lamp compliance scheme, to establish a network on 11 waste lamp collection points in the city's core known as the Square Mile. Residents may drop off their waste lamps at no charge in bins provided and maintained by Recolight.

"People want to recycle their old bulbs but are often unsure of where the nearest facilities are," said Recolight spokesperson Lyndsey Smith. *"These containers will be visible to hundreds of consumers every week, and we hope that this will help make a difference to recycling in the local area."*

More information is available at <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/household-waste-and-recycling/Pages/batteries-and-light-bulbs-recycling.aspx>.

New Brunswick Selects Organization To Run Upcoming Oil And Anti-Freeze EPR Program

Earlier this month, Recycle New Brunswick announced that the Atlantic Used Oil Management Association was selected to manage the Canadian province's automotive oil and glycol anti-freeze producer responsibility scheme, which was approved by the government last October. It will launch next year.

The scheme will cover take back and processing of waste oil, oil filters, oil containers, glycol and glycol containers.

The Recycle New Brunswick announcement is posted at http://www.recyclenb.com/en/media/recycle_nb_accepts_industry_agent_for_oil_and_glycol_recycling_program/.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Concerned About Unlicensed Junk Hauling Services

Small waste and junk hauling services may be popping up more often, and in some instances flying under the radar of regulators.

Last week, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced earlier this year it discovered an illegal dump containing about 500 cubic yard of trash or the equivalent of 50 dump truck loads. MPCA traced the illegal waste in part to an individual running a waste hauling ad on the web site Craig's List. The accused dumper and his former employer were each fined \$7,500 for violating state solid waste laws.

More recently, MPCA then published a page on its web site urging Minnesota residents to ensure that any online offers for junk removal or appliance and metal recycling are from legitimate, properly licensed businesses. Unscrupulous operators may dump illegally to reduce tip fees and related costs.

"Under Minnesota rules, property owners and occupants - whether business, residential or government - have a duty to dispose of waste only through authorized facilities," states the MPCA web page. *"Waste haulers need to be licensed by the cities or counties where they operate."*

Get more information at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/featured-stories/trash-trouble.html>.

German Institute Says Nanoparticle Sol-Gels Could Replace Toxic Wood Flame Retardants

Last week, Germany's Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) reported that nanoparticles of silicon or titanium compounds substantially increased the fire resistance of wood and could offer an alternative to more toxic flame retardant chemicals used in wood products. The nanomaterials flame retardant testing was limited to wood.

The nanomaterials compounds also proved effective in preventing the growth of brown-rot fungi. The testing was conducted on a type of pine lumber commonly used in construction.

For more information, go to http://www.bam.de/de/aktuell/presse/pressemitteilungen/pm_2013/pm12_2013.htm.

Business Initiatives

Beverage Can Recycling Scheme Prepares To Ramp Up For Upcoming Scottish Recycling Law

Every Can Counts, a UK partnership entity between beverage can makers and recyclers, said last week that a survey it conducted of 32 local Scottish governments and 101 businesses found *"there is still a sizeable challenge ahead to get private and public sector organisations recycling in time for 2014."* That is when a new law mandating that businesses and organizations separate their recyclables goes into effect.

Specifically, the survey found that 32 percent of businesses do not yet have a recycling system in place, and 28 percent of local government lack required zero waste plans. However, Every Can Counts says it can *"set any organisation up with a drinks can recycling scheme in less than a week."*

Every Can Counts says it is currently working with nearly 150 organizations to implement beverage can recycling programs.

Get more information at <http://www.everycancounts.co.uk/news/every-can-counts-steps-up-campaign-to-help-scots-businesses-hit-government%E2%80%99s-zero-waste-target/>.

The Green Perspective

Environmental Working Group Critical Of Proposed US Chemical Safety Improvement Act

Last week, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) issued a communique saying the proposed Chemical Safety Improvement Act of 2013 *"could be worse for the public than the law now on the books - the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976."*

According to EWG, the proposed Act would grant companies *"virtual immunity from lawsuits,"* keep more chemical information secret, and hamper states in restricting a chemical's use, which has become a growing problem for chemical producers.

One of the architects of TSCA reform legislation, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D - New Jersey), died shortly after co-sponsoring the proposed Chemical Safety Improvement Act of 2013. Two years ago, Senator Lautenberg sponsored another TSCA reform bill that was much more challenging to the chemicals industry and supported by environmental groups, but that first effort failed get beyond committee.

The EWG communique is posted at <http://www.ewg.org/enviroblog/2013/06/five-steps-backward-chemical-lobby-bill>.

Consumer Group Finds Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals In Danish Plastic Bicycle Parts

The Danish Information Center for Environment and Health said last week that tests by the Danish Consumer Council on 10 models of training bicycles designed for small children found several contained phthalates - specifically DEHP, DIDP and DPHP. Additionally, two seats tested contained the flame retardant TCPP. In all, five of the ten tested bicycles contained endocrine disrupting chemicals.

The Information Center noted that phthalates are not supposed to be used in toys for children under three years of age. The Danish EPA recently released a proposed strategy for managing the use of endocrine disrupting chemicals.

The Danish Consumer Council testing announcement is posted at <http://taenk.dk/test/loebecykler>.

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