Exide Technologies, Vernon Public Meeting

South Coast AQMD

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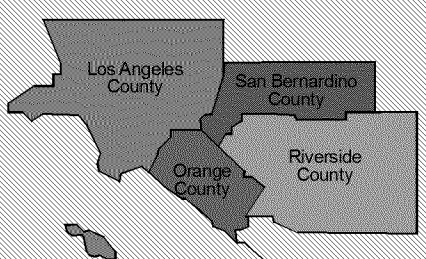
The SCAQMD



- Our agency, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), manages air pollution for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.
- This area is 10,743 square miles and is home to about 40% of the population of California.

Exide -Vernon

Location: Five miles S.E. of downtown Los Angeles,

Established: 1922

Site: 15 acres

Facility size: 220,000 ft.^{2}

Batteries recycled per day: 23,000 to 41,000 batteries per day

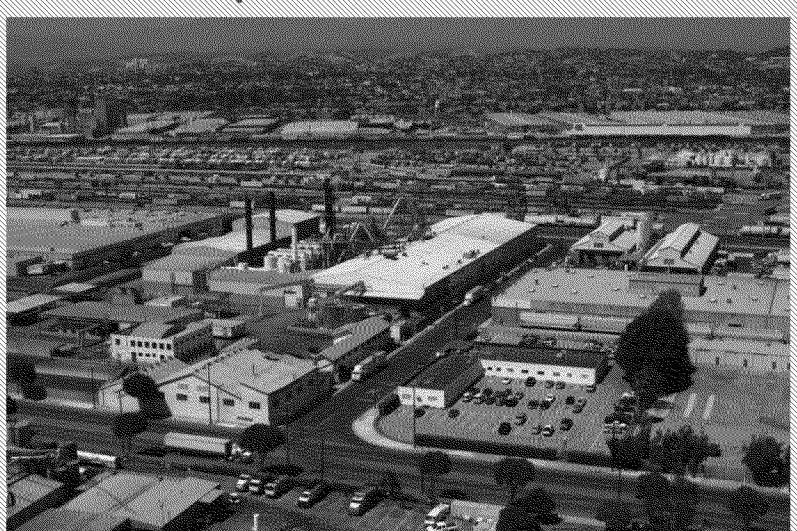
Area/Region Received from: Alaska to Mexico border and west of the Rocky Mountains

Manufacturing capacity: 340 tons finished daily

Shifts: 3 shifts / 7 days continuous operation

Labor affiliations: United Steelworkers of America

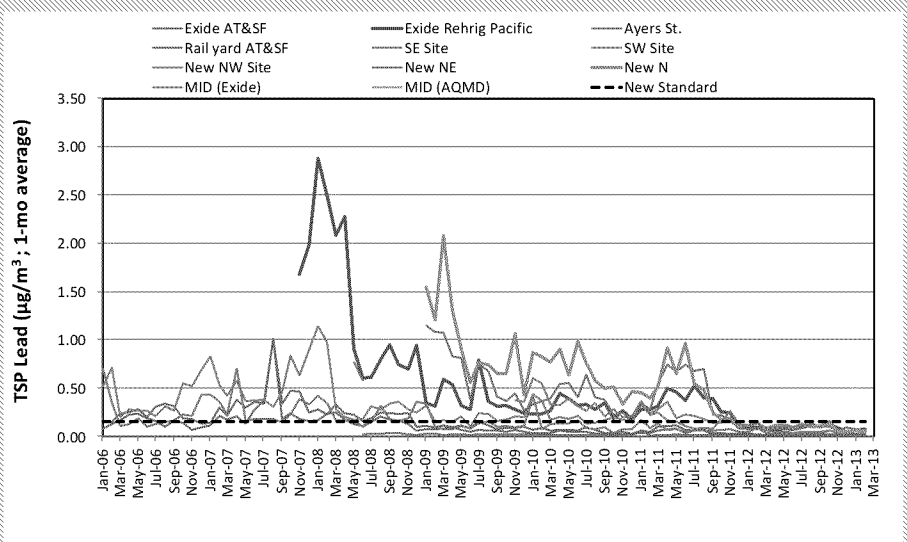
Prior to April 2012



Lead Emissions

- In 2007, elevated levels of lead detected in the air adjacent to Exide facility
- Led to a series of enforcement actions to reduce lead emissions
- Los Angeles County designated non-attainment for the federal lead standards due to the monitored levels
- New AQMD Rule 1420.1
- Significant modifications at facility
- As of January 2012, monitored levels are below the tighter federal limit (0.15 micrograms/m^3, 3-month ave.)

Ambient Lead Data



Health Effects of Lead

* Cancer
  * US EPA classification: B2 (probable human carcinogen; inadequate human data, sufficient animal data)
* Non-Cancer Chronic (low concentration, long exposure)
  * Target organs: developmental, nervous, immune, kidney, blood, and reproductive systems
* Non-Cancer Acute (high concentration, short exposure)
  * Target organs: gastrointestinal, respiratory, skin, and eye systems

Assembly Bill 2588

- In 1987, the California legislature adopted the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act; also known as Assembly Bill 2588 (or AB2588)
- The goals of the Act are to:
  - collect facility's emissions data
  - identify localized impacts and health risks
  - notify affected individuals; and/or
  - reduce the risk
- Health Risk Assessment (HRA)
  - A study which analyzes the human health risks associated with daily operations of a facility
  - A computer model is used which incorporates data and conservative estimates to evaluate risk

Exide Cancer Risk Results

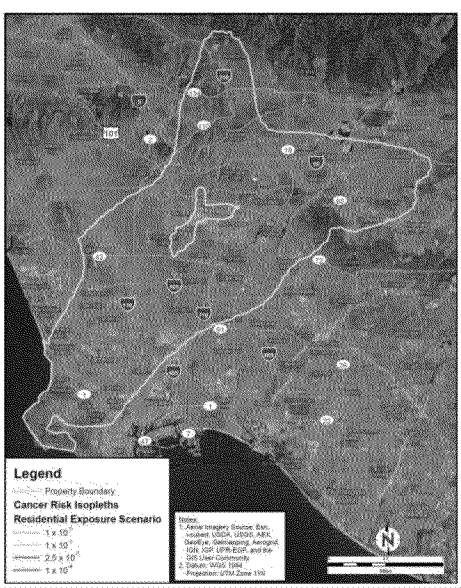
- Maximum individual cancer risk (worker) = 156 in one million (action level = 25 in one million)

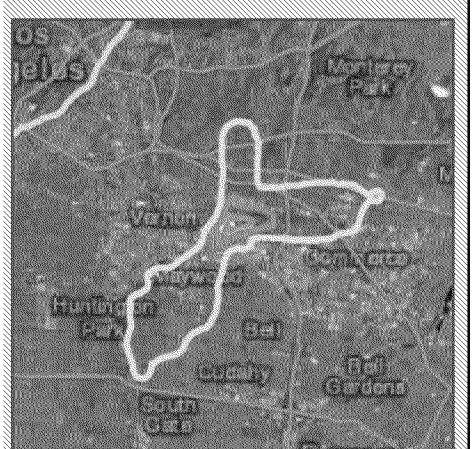
  Note: Actual monitoring data suggests model is significantly over-estimating risks at this location
- Maximum individual cancer risk (resident) = 22 in one million
- Cancer Burden = 10 cancer cases (action level = 0.5)
- Majority of the risk is from arsenic emissions from the hard lead baghouse

Cancer Risk: Cancer risk is the additional chances of getting cancer by a person continually breathing the same level of pollutants. Cancer risk in the area from all ambient air toxic emissions ranges from 1,000 to 2,000 in one million, primarily from diesel exhaust particulates.

Cancer Burden: Cancer burden is the estimated number of additional cancer cases for the entire exposed population.

Figure ES-2. Cancer Risk Isopleths





Exide Non-cancer Risk Results

Chronic Hazard Index

- Resident = 2.9
- Worker = 63
  (action level = 3)
- Risk driver – arsenic (respiratory)

Acute Hazard Index

- Maximally exposed individual = 3.8
  (action level = 3)
- Risk driver – arsenic (developmental)

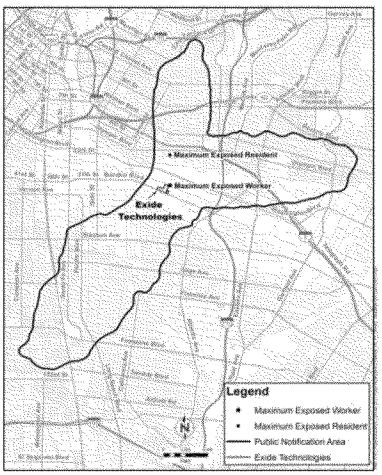
A Hazard Index of 1.0 would indicate no adverse non-cancer health effects are expected. A Hazard Index over 1.0 means there could be some adverse non-cancer health effects.

Health Effects of Arsenic

* Cancer
  * US EPA classification: A (human carcinogen)
  * Inhalation: lung
  * Ingestion: lung, liver, kidney, bladder, and skin
* Non-Cancer Chronic (low concentration, long exposure)
  * Target organs: developmental, cardiovascular, nervous, respiratory, and skin systems
* Non-Cancer Acute (high concentration, short exposure)
  * Target organs: developmental, cardiovascular, and nervous systems

Public Notification Process

- Identify the notification area as shown in map
- Distribute the public notice
  - ✓ over 100,000 addresses
  - ✓ 31 schools
- Distribute HRA to local libraries
  - ✓ 5 local libraries
  - ✓ available on website
- Conduct public meeting



Public Meetings

- AB 2588 Public Meetings
  - Thursday, May 30 at Huntington Park Community Center; 10 a.m., 2 p.m., & 6 p.m.
  - Saturday, June 1 at Doubletree Hotel of Commerce; 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., & 2 p.m.
- Other Community Meetings
  - Tuesday, June 4 at Resurrection Catholic Church; 6 p.m.
  - Wednesday, June 5 at City of Vernon Council Chamber; 4 p.m.

DTSC Order for Temporary Suspension

April 24, 2013 - DTSC ordered a temporary suspension of facility operations

DTSC allegations as basis for suspension

1. March 5, 2013 Storm Sewer Inspection findings
   - ✓ Accumulation of semi-solid sludge materials and standing liquids,
   - ✓ Breaches in the pipelines,
   - ✓ Lack of fiberglass slip lining in the piping, and
   - ✓ Storm sewer system not within a required secondary containment.
2. SCAQMD-approved HRA

May 13, 2013 - Exide has challenged the DTSC order

June 3-5, 2013 - Administrative Hearing

Ongoing and Next Steps

- Installed door over feed chute to blast furnace to better direct process exhaust gases to control devices
  - ✓ Preliminary source test results evaluated & additional testing required
- Install HEPA filter on blast furnace feed room bag house
- Submit Risk Reduction Plan before September 1
  - ✓ Subject to SCAQMD review and approval
- Annual public notice and annual progress report until Plan fully implemented
  - ✓ Success demonstrated by source tests and a HRA
- SCAQMD to consider additional requirements (regulations and/or permit conditions)