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KATHRYN BARGER

August 4, 2020

Meredith Williams, Director
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

Dear Ms. Williams:

We are writing to express the County of Los Angeles' opposition to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) consideration of Quemetco, Inc.'s (Quemetco) permit application for continued operation of its battery recycling facility (Facility) in the city of Industry. Any decision other than denial of the permit is premature given the pending and unresolved regulatory investigations and enforcement actions against Quemetco, including its history of past violations, as well as the environmental justice and public health impacts that the continued operation of the Facility would have on the surrounding communities.

In May 2020, DTSC announced it would be issuing a preliminary decision on Quemetco's request for permit renewal by September 2020. Quemetco's operating permit renewal must not be considered until all outstanding issues are resolved and the health impact to the community from Quemetco's historic, current, and proposed future operations has been fully analyzed by DTSC. Finally, no permit renewal should be granted unless Quemetco can demonstrate that: (1) it has implemented enforceable improvements to its facility operations, processes and equipment that will prevent future violations; and (2) there are substantial and overriding benefits to the people of the State of California resulting from the continued operation of the facility.

The extent of Quemetco's lead contamination in the community has not been fully assessed or cleaned up. The cleanup ordered by DTSC immediately adjacent to Quemetco recently began in a small part of the clean-up area but has not been fully implemented. In addition, the DTSC Violation Scoring Procedure (VSP) has not been finalized and based on Quemetco's current score of conditionally acceptable, it is subject to a third-party audit.


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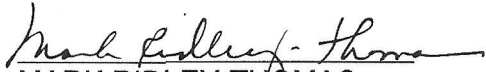
Therefore, we respectfully urge you not to consider Quemetco's application for renewal of the operating permit, until and unless: (1) all of Quemetco's unresolved violations of law have been remedied; (2) additional community sampling and cleanup is completed by Quemetco; (3) DTSC's VSP process is completed, including implementation of third-party audits; and (4) a rigorous public environmental review process is completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. These are critical steps toward achieving the environmental justice communities of East Los Angeles County deserve.


Thank you for your consideration of this important request.


Sincerely,


KATHRYN BARGER
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Fifth District


HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District


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