

QUEMETCO BACKGROUND

Quemetco, Inc. (“Quemetco”) City of Industry facility recycles spent lead batteries from vehicles to reclaim lead and other recyclable materials. Quemetco, located on 13-acres zoned for industrial use by the City of Industry, has been in operation since 1959. It is surrounded by manufacturing operations.

General Information

- Employs approximately 250 full-time individuals
- Most of workforce is unionized (mostly Teamsters Local #986)
- Pay exceeds industry standards and includes incentives for achieving specific safety, health, and environmental performance goals
- Employees undergo annual health screenings and regular blood testing.

Environmental Information - General

- Facility is fully permitted to operate and handle hazardous waste under permits issued by the SCAQMD and DTSC.
- Facility is the cleanest lead recycling facility in the world
- Quemetco continues to be committed to meeting or exceeding all applicable environmental standards.
- Quemetco ensures that millions of used car batteries are safely recycled and not discarded in local landfills or disposed of in countries with significantly lower environmental standards.

SCAQMD Information

- Since 2008, Quemetco has invested close to \$50 million installing and maintaining multiple state of the art pollution control and monitoring devices to reduce its air emissions beyond what is required by law and regulation.
- Quemetco was the sole driving force pushing SCAQMD to adopt the strictest in the nation lead and arsenic standards found in its Rule 1420.1. This was due to its investment in systems like -
 - Wet Electrostatic Precipitator (“WESP”) at the cost of over \$25 million. This system dramatically reduces emissions of lead, arsenic, and other hazardous air pollutants. Quemetco was the first lead-battery recycling facility to employ and remains the only company in this industry to utilize WESP systems;
 - Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer – similar to an afterburner – was installed to destroy certain smog-forming organic compounds as well as eliminating potential odors;
 - Air quality fence line monitoring samples for lead and arsenic content are collected 24 hrs/day, analyzed by a third-party laboratory and sent to the SCAQMD;
 - All processing equipment operates under negative pressure to prevent materials from escaping into the air when doors open.
- Quemetco’s SCAQMD Health Risk Assessment results for arsenic are lower than the action levels established by SCAQMD and OEHHA.
 - Risk Reduction Threshold
 - The Cancer Burden Risk Reduction Threshold is 0.5 and Quemetco is at 0.45
 - WESP Arsenic Emissions of 18 lbs/yr would trigger further Risk Reduction. Quemetco’s Title V permit limits WESP Arsenic Emissions to 6.5 lbs/yr.
 - Public Notification
 - The Maximum Individual Cancer Risk Public Notification Level is 10 and Quemetco’s is 7.1
 - The Arsenic Emission Notification Level is at @32 and Quemetco is at 6.5
- Quemetco’s 2019 lead emissions were 6.43 pounds/year and arsenic rolling average is approximately 1 pound/year

DTSC - Soil Issues

- No evidence exists that Quemetco’s operation has caused any rise in lead levels in blood.
- Blood leads assessments from 1992 to present (including those conducted by the Los Angeles County Department of Health at local Resource Fairs) show either
 - No evidence of increase in blood lead levels, or
 - Any blood lead elevated levels.
- Soil lead levels found in nearby residential areas sampled are similar to lead levels found in homes of comparable age and proximity to freeways far from any lead smelter.
- The DTSC Health Risk Assessment shows that Quemetco is below the “action levels”.

All data is based on information available to the public as well as SCAQMD, DTSC, OEHHA accepted/approved methodologies.