

California Department of Toxic Substances Control Announces \$285,000 Settlement with Trident Plating

SACRAMENTO - Under a stipulation approved by the Los Angeles Superior Court, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reached a \$285,000 settlement with Trident Plating, an electroplating facility located at 10046 Romandel Ave., in Santa Fe Springs. In its operations, the company routinely generates and treats spent hazardous, corrosive plating solutions, rinse waters, and sludges that include dissolved metals. Trident also generates extremely hazardous, potentially reactive wastes containing cyanide.

"Compliance with the Hazardous Waste Control Law is vital to protecting the environment and preventing health risks to workers and the community," said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. "This settlement signifies the department's continuing efforts to uphold both environmental safety and compliance with existing law."

Although Trident has been authorized under a local permit to treat certain hazardous wastes onsite since 2001, in 2004 DTSC inspectors found a number of violations of California's Hazardous Waste Control Law at the facility that could pose significant health and environmental risks. Among the most serious violations were Trident's storage of incompatible acidic and cyanide-bearing wastes in the same tank system, its failure to adequately reinforce or shield the piping conveying such wastes from employees, and its neglect in providing training to two employees who regularly handled hazardous wastes.

Since Trident continued to violate the state's hazardous waste laws and regulations by managing hazardous waste in an unsafe manner, DTSC asked the state's Attorney General to request an injunction against the company, which was granted in 2007.

Because of ongoing difficulty in identifying and isolating cyanide, which is lethal in sufficient concentrations, Trident has agreed to suspend cyanide waste treatment. A copy of the judgment is available on the DTSC website, www.dtsc.ca.gov.