Virtual Community Meeting #2 for Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project

FEBRUARY 9, 2022
6:00 P.M.

ZOOM WEBINAR LINK: HTTPS://SCAQMD.ZOOM.US/J/98021218173
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 980 2121 8173
TELECONFERENCE DIAL-IN: +1 (669) 900-6833
SPANISH (ESPAÑOL) LANGUAGE WEBINAR ID: 932 0955 9643
CHINESE (中文) LANGUAGE WEBINAR ID: 931 1258 4181
Who is the South Coast AQMD?

- Regional air pollution control agency responsible for regulating air emissions, primarily stationary facilities
- Evaluates permit applications and issues permits to ensure operation of equipment and processes meets South Coast AQMD rules and regulations
- Develops rules to address criteria and toxic air contaminant emissions to ensure protection of public health
- Inspects facilities to ensure compliance with permit conditions and applicable rules and regulations
Purpose of the Meeting

• Provide overview of the Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project and process for Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

• Listen to public comments on the Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project
  ▪ Comments will be considered and responses will be provided when preparing Final EIR
About Quemetco

- Lead-acid battery recycling facility
- Located at 720 S. 7th Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91746
- Operating for 24 hours per day at current location since 1959*
- Receives used lead-acid batteries from cars and other households uses, recovers lead, and sells the finished lead products to customers who utilize lead or lead alloys in their manufacturing processes

*except the rotary kiln/feed dryer and reverberatory (reverb) furnace which operate 20 hours per day
Brief Process Overview

- **Spent Lead-Acid Batteries** go to Battery Wrecker
  - Lead Metal
  - Rotary/Kiln Feed Dryer
  - Lead Metal Melted in Reverb Furnace
    - Slag
    - Electric Arc Furnace*
      - Molten Lead refined to customer specifications
      - Finished Product

* Remaining analyzed and disposed of as either hazardous or non-hazardous waste
How are Lead and Other Emissions Controlled?

**Control Devices**
- Baghouse and Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) at Rotary Kiln/Feed Dryer
- Baghouse and Scrubbers at Reverb and Electric Arc Furnaces
- Baghouse at Refinery Kettles
- High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters & Wet Electrostatic Precipitator (WESP) at all equipment within building enclosure

**Pollutants**
- VOC, CO, PM, and toxics (arsenic, 1,3-butadiene, and benzene)
- NOx, SOx, PM, and toxics (arsenic and lead)
- PM and toxics (arsenic and lead)
- PM and toxics (arsenic and lead)
Proposed Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project

- **Increase amount of lead metal processed in rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverb furnace from 600 to 750 tons per day**

- **Increase coke material used in rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverb furnace from 300 to 375 tons per month**
  - Allow petroleum coke to be used in the reverb furnace and electric arc furnace

- **Increase exhaust temperature of rotary/kiln feed dryer from 330 to 450 °F**

- **Will increase operation of rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverb furnace from 20 to 24 hours per day**

- **Increase refined lead product output from 460 to 575 tons per day**
Permit Applications and CEQA

- Quemetco submitted permit applications to the South Coast AQMD in 2013 seeking modifications to their existing permit
- South Coast AQMD identified as Lead Agency responsible for:
  - preparing CEQA documents
  - evaluating the permit applications and preparing a draft permit
CEQA Documents and Process

**Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS)**
- Notifies the public that a Draft EIR is being prepared
- Evaluates 18 environmental topic areas and identifies potentially significant environmental topics to be evaluated in Draft EIR
- Scoping meeting required to allow public to provide input on scope of analysis in Draft EIR

**Draft EIR**
- Responds to comments on NOP/IS
- Analyzes potentially significant environmental topics
- Recaps conclusion of environmental topic areas with no impact or less than significant impacts
- Identifies mitigation measures for significant impacts
- Analyzes project alternatives

**Final EIR**
- Includes updates to proposed Project, as applicable
- Includes all comments received on Draft EIR and provides responses to those comments

**Final EIR Certification**
- Adopt Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (if required)
- Adopt Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant impacts, if any
- File and post Notice of Determination
Public Participation for NOP/IS

Opportunities for Public Participation:

• NOP/IS released for a 56-day public review and comment period from August 31 to October 25, 2018
  ▪ Received 30 comment letters

• Two CEQA Scoping Meetings held:
  ▪ September 13, 2018 – received 125 written comments
  ▪ October 25, 2018 – received 28 oral comments

• Comments received at CEQA Scoping Meetings and on the NOP/IS and responses to comments are included in Appendix B of Draft EIR
Draft EIR for Proposed Project

- South Coast AQMD is Lead Agency for the Draft EIR
  - Trinity Consultants prepared
  - South Coast AQMD staff reviewed
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) identified as Responsible Agency
  - Reviewed Draft EIR
- Initially released for 61-day public review & comment period from October 14, 2021 to December 14, 2021
- Public review & comment period extended to February 15, 2022
- Comments made during the public meeting for the Draft EIR will be provided in the Final EIR with responses
Draft EIR Contents

• Project Description
• Existing Setting (physical conditions)
• Detailed analysis of environmental topic areas identified in NOP/IS as potentially significant
  • Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
  • Energy
  • Hazards and Hazardous Materials
  • Hydrology and Water Quality
  • Traffic and Transportation*
• Areas of Controversy
• Analysis of feasible alternatives to the proposed Project
• Analysis of cumulative impacts
• Copy of the NOP/IS
• Comments received at CEQA Scoping and responses
• Comments received on the NOP/IS and responses
• Reference materials such as technical studies, calculations, etc.

* CalTrans requested further analysis comment letter for NOP/IS
Comprehensive Air Quality Analysis

- **Emission Sources**
  - Stationary
    - Lead Smelting
    - Material Handling
  - Mobile
    - Trucks
    - Locomotives
    - Passenger Vehicles

- **Pollutants Analyzed**
  - Criteria Pollutants
  - GHGs
  - Toxics
  - Particulate Lead & Arsenic
  - Gaseous Arsenic, 1,3-Butadiene, & Benzene

- **Determine Extent of Impacts**

- **Evaluation Methods**
  - Quantify Mass Daily Emissions
  - Air Dispersion Modeling
  - Health Risk Assessment (HRA)

- Compare emissions to South Coast AQMD Significance Thresholds
- Ensure Compliance with Rule 1420.1 Requirements
Regulatory Safeguard

- Rule 1420.1 applies to large lead-acid battery recycling facilities
- Establishes the strictest requirements for lead-acid battery recycling facilities in the nation
- Comprehensive rule:
  - Addresses four toxic air contaminants: lead, arsenic, 1,3-butadiene, and benzene
  - Establishes point and fugitive emissions
- Quemetco must continue to meet requirements of Rule 1420.1 with the Capacity Upgrade Project
South Coast AQMD Rule 1420.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambient Monitoring</th>
<th>Point Source Requirements</th>
<th>Total Enclosures</th>
<th>Housekeeping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Four Fenceline Ambient Monitors for Lead and Arsenic</td>
<td>• Lead point source limit of 0.003 lb/hour</td>
<td>• Total enclosures for all lead processing</td>
<td>• Vacuum sweep three times per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ambient lead limit of 0.100 µg/m³</td>
<td>• Arsenic point source limit of 0.00114 lb/hour</td>
<td>• Under negative pressure air vented to pollution controls</td>
<td>• Quarterly Roof cleaning</td>
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### Additional Regulatory Safeguards

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<tr>
<th>AB 2588 Hot Spots Program – Rule 1402</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Annual review of facility-wide toxics emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Requires public notification and risk reduction if health risk exceeds cancer or non-cancer thresholds</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Has an approved Risk Reduction Plan (RRP)</td>
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<td>• No changes needed to RRP</td>
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<tr>
<th>On-going Compliance Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) in-stack monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Annual source testing lead, arsenic, 1,3-butadiene, and benzene</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continuous ambient monitoring of lead and arsenic – captures point and fugitive emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facility inspections</td>
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<td>• New monitor for CO emissions</td>
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Air Quality Impacts Conclusion

• With air pollution control systems in place:
  ▪ Emissions would not exceed the South Coast AQMD air quality significance thresholds for criteria air pollutants, GHGs, and toxics
  ▪ Total and incremental health risk impacts would not exceed South Coast AQMD’s health impact thresholds for toxic air emissions
  ▪ Lead emissions would be less than the Rule 1420.1 standards
Hazards & the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- Responsible Agency under CEQA
- Provided input for Draft EIR re: Hazards/Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Waste
- Will have review and approval authority for Capacity Upgrade Project
  - Quemetco has not yet submitted an application to DTSC
- Reviewing Quemetco's other application seeking to renew its Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Permit for its current operations and capacities
  - RCRA permit authorizes the treatment and storage of hazardous waste
  - Draft decision expected early 2022
- Questions on DTSC Permitting Process may be directed to Mr. Sam Coe, Project Manager at 916-255-3587 or Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov
Conclusion: Other Impact Areas

**Energy**
- Less than significant increases in electricity usage

**Hydrology/Water Quality**
- Less than significant increases in wastewater generated

**Hazards/Hazardous Materials**
- Less than significant impacts associated with routine transport, use, disposal, or accidental release of hazardous materials

**Transportation/Traffic**
- Less than significant increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Verification of existing ramp turning radius for truck entering and exiting SR-60 interchange with S. 7th Avenue per CalTrans request
Draft EIR Conclusions

- Project and cumulative impacts were less than significant for all environmental topics
- No mitigation measures required
- Alternatives analysis conducted for informational purposes
Draft EIR Public Review and Comment Period

- Public comment period ends: February 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- Draft EIR can be obtained from the South Coast AQMD:
  - Website at: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/research/documents-reports/lead-agency-permit-projects](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/research/documents-reports/lead-agency-permit-projects)
  - Public Information Center
    - PICrequests@aqmd.gov; (909) 396-2039
- Draft EIR can be viewed at:
  - La Puente Library
  - Hacienda Heights Library

Public Commenting Opportunities

- Provide Oral Comments at meeting tonight
- Email comments to Kevin Ni at: KNi@aqmd.gov
- Mail comments to Kevin Ni at: South Coast AQMD
  21865 Copley Drive
  Diamond Bar, CA 91765
- Fax comments to Kevin Ni at: (909) 396-3982
Permit Application Review

• South Coast AQMD staff evaluated the maximum potential emissions and health risks from the proposed capacity upgrade project

• Evaluation of the permit applications concluded that the proposed capacity upgrade project
  ▪ Will meet all applicable air quality rules and regulations; and
  ▪ Does not exceed health risk levels in Rule 1401 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants

• If South Coast AQMD does not have a basis for denial of the permit applications and the proposed project will comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality requirements, South Coast AQMD must proceed with permit issuance
  ▪ South Coast AQMD prepared a draft permit
Preparation of Final EIR

• After close of Draft EIR public review and comment period, a Final EIR will be prepared which will include:
  ▪ Changes/updates made to the proposed Project after the release of the Draft EIR
  ▪ Responses to comments received relative to the Draft EIR
    • Any comments received during the public comment period including comments received at the meetings held on November 10, 2021 and February 9, 2022
    • Close of public review and comment period: February 15, 2022
  ▪ All previous content from the Draft EIR
Next Steps

**South Coast AQMD**

- Oversee preparation of Final EIR
- Consideration whether to:
  - Certify Final EIR, and
  - Approve Project and Issue Permit

**DTSC**

- Quemetco to submit application for Capacity Upgrade Project to modify RCRA permit
- Conduct evaluation
- Could rely on Final EIR to comply with CEQA

*Quemetco cannot implement any of the operational changes until both South Coast AQMD and DTSC CEQA and permitting actions are complete*
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