

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street,
Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances
Control
Permitting Division
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: Implementation of the Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Plan

Project Location: Statewide

County: Statewide

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Other (Legislative Requirements)

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5

Project Description: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approves of the implementation of the Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Plan. On January 1, 2006, the State of California banned the sale of new mercury-added thermostats due to public health and safety concerns. California's Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2021 requires a manufacturer, or group of manufacturers, to contract with a qualified third party to develop and implement a program that includes the collection, handling, and arrangement for appropriate management for out of service mercury-added thermostats.

Background: Many thermostats sold prior to 2006 contain a mercury switch, which consists of a glass tube with mercury inside. On January 1, 2006, the State of California banned the sale of new mercury-added thermostats due to public health and safety concerns. Mercury that is released into the atmosphere can be transported long distances and deposited in aquatic ecosystems, where it can be converted into methylmercury, an especially toxic form. Methylmercury can accumulate in fish and humans. As a part of Health and Safety Code Article 10.2.2. Section 25214.8.11.5, this Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Plan was developed.

Project Activities:

The Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Plan requires the qualified third party to provide collection bins at no cost to wholesalers, retailers, contractors, or government agencies for collection of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats. This ensures a convenient opportunity for consumers, contractors, and technicians to collect, recycle, and ensure the safe and environmentally-sound

management of mercury thermostats. Within 12 months of acceptance of the thermostats at the individual collection locations, the thermostats will be drummed in an appropriate container for transport to Veolia’s mercury recovery facility (WID988566543) for final processing of the mercury.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: [CCR Title 14 Sec. 15308]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: DTSC has determined none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to this project, as described in Public Resources Code Section 21084(c), (d), and (e), and 14 CCR Section 15300.2. The Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Plan is consistent with the actions taken by regulatory agency, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 Permitting Division
 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 806
 Sacramento, CA 95812

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
Taylor Grose	Hazardous Substances Engineer	(279) 895-5191

Approver’s Signature:

Date:

September 27, 2022

Approver’s Name	Approver’s Title	Approver’s Phone Number
Hin-Yun Lee	Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer, 1	(916) 217-7399

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: