2010 ASTSWMO
Hazardous Waste Managers
Conference & Training
Salt Lake City, UT

Plenary Session: Universal Waste

June 29, 2010

Universal Waste Case Study:
Advanced Technologies Processing, Inc.
Initial Complaint

• January 7, 2008: VA DEQ waste compliance manager receives complaint from former employee of Advanced Technologies’ Richmond operation, who alleges that workers are being exposed to high levels of mercury at the ATP facility.

• VA DEQ relays information to the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI).

• January 8, 2008, DOLI inspector visits site with follow up inspection on January 23, 2008.

January 8, 2008 DOLI Inspection Photos
January 2008 DOLI Inspection Photos

DOLI Monitoring/Sample Results (January 8 & 23, 2008)

- 3 of 4 front-line employees’ blood Hg levels ranged from 57.8 to 85.7 μg/L in September 2007. (Normal range is <15μg/L)

- Wipe samples inside warehouse, office and break room ranged from 1.45 to 89.5 μg/ft² Hg, including 13.5 μg/ft² inside the break room refrigerator.

- Office Ambient Hg level: 0.213 mg/m³ vs. OSHA 8-hr Permissible Exposure Limit: 0.10 mg/m³
DEQ February 8, 2008 Inspection

- No permit for operation of universal waste destination facility.

- Phosphor dust (containing Hg) released throughout facility, neighboring business and potentially outdoors

- Drums from off-site labeled “Hazardous Waste” were received and stored at the facility.

- Up to 3,449 lb/month of hazardous waste was generated at the site and accumulated for up to 315 days in 2007 and 2008

Next Steps

- Notify and coordinate with Virginia Department of Health (Henrico Health Department and Division of Environmental Epidemiology)

- Work with EPA On Scene Coordinator to take samples at facility

- VA DEQ and DOLI issue Notices of Violation to ATP and its parent companies and owner individually

- Identify other similar facilities and inspect
ATP Actions

- ATP voluntarily ceased lamp crushing at its Henrico facility on February 28, 2008.

- Continued operating as a LQH.

- Lamps awaiting recycling were shipped off-site.

- ATP hired a consultant to informally clean the area and the adjacent business.
Tappahannock Facility

- Located April 25, 2008
- 10 trailers contained boxes labeled “Universal Waste” and one box labeled “Hazardous Waste”, as well as broken lamps.
- ATP reported the trailers were brought to the site between January 8 and 23, 2008.

On the road again....

- The trailers did not meet DOT requirements for shipment
- DEQ requested that ATP re-pack the trailers and haul the lamps to a properly permitted destination facility and TSD.
- Shortly thereafter, ATP began taking trailers one at a time to an unknown location. ...
Settlement

December 2009 Consent Order

1) ATP must not operate a Destination Facility in the Commonwealth
2) RCRA Closure (plan approved June 2010)
3) $165,000 civil charge

ATP did not admit to DEQ’s findings of fact or conclusions of law.

ATP is currently in compliance with the terms of the Consent Order and no longer operates in Virginia.
Lessons Learned

• Improper handling and recycling of universal waste lamps can have a significant adverse effect on human health

• Special PPE may be necessary for inspectors

• UW lamps have varying concentrations of mercury, making it difficult to make a certain HW determination on the phosphor powder without testing each individual load.

• Recordkeeping is essential to documenting compliance (and non-compliance).

• When in doubt on corporate status, try to cast a big net.

Questions?
Advanced Technologies Processing, Inc.

Also known as:
• Supreme Computers
• Supreme Computer Recycling
• Supreme Asset Management and Recovery SAMR
• Supreme Asset Management, Inc.
• Associated Technical Processors
• Supreme Electronics and Computer Recycling, Inc.
• SCER Supreme Inc.