

SELENIUM TONER SOURCE CONTROL PROGRAM

Selenium

Selenium is a toxic metal that is not completely removed from wastewater by existing sewage treatment plant technology. Selenium concentrations in organisms can increase as they move up the food chain (bioaccumulation). For example, diving ducks in the South Bay have been found to have levels of metals that are of concern.

In response to environmental concerns, California has imposed stringent limits on amounts of selenium that may be discharged to the Bay by wastewater treatment plants. The Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) is concerned about the levels of selenium in both the Plant's influent and effluent.

In 1993, the RWQCP identified the use of selenium toners in the service area as a potentially significant source of that metal to the treatment plant.

Public Education

The RWQCP used its *Silver Lining* newsletter to educate the photo-processing community about the problems associated with selenium toner use. The newsletter is distributed to nearly 400 photoprocessors. The Spring 1993 issue included a section

describing the selenium issue and the proper disposal for spent selenium toner solutions.

The RWQCP also produced a flier in 1993 that provides information about selenium toner and its proper disposal. The flier will be distributed to all of the stores in the RWQCP's service area that sell photoprocessing chemicals and to several other groups.

Requirements

All selenium toner users are required to collect the spent solutions and dispose of them as hazardous waste. Residents who live in the RWQCP service area can collect spent selenium toner and take it to the RWQCP during business hours or to a household hazardous waste collection event.