

blocked fire extinguishers exposing workers to fire risks; lack of proper railings around stairs and floor openings; failing to provide an emergency shut-off for dispensing gasoline; confined space deficiencies, toxic chemical storage, and poor housekeeping.

EPA Warns Tonawanda Coke on CWA Violations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered Tonawanda Coke Corp., Tonawanda, NY, to comply with the terms of its Clean Water Act permit. Earlier this year the Buffalo-area merchant coke producer was ordered by EPA to identify and correct deficiencies in its operations and to explain two incidents of coke-oven gas release in 2009 and 2010, in violation of Clean Air Act standards.

Now, EPA finds that among other violations Tonawanda Coke is discharging industrial wastewater containing cyanide in excess of its permit limits into the local

sanitary sewer system. Cyanide is a toxic chemical compound, and excessive amounts may adversely impact human health, fish and wildlife.

Also, EPA is also ordering Tonawanda Coke to properly monitor and treat the wastewater that results from its cokemaking process. The order requires Tonawanda Coke to complete an installation of pollution controls, improve monitoring and provide more information about operations at the plant.

Tonawanda Coke shares ownership with Erie Coke Corp., another merchant coke producer. Erie Coke recently agreed to an extensive series of modernizations and updates to its Erie, PA, plant, and will pay a \$6-million fine in order to achieve compliance with state environmental and air-quality regulations. The information was released by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which filed a consent decree in Commonwealth Court resolving the charges that brought a closure notice to the plant in late May.

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our quality track record and the consistently high level of our quality management procedures," said Garner Industries president Scott McLain.

■ **Waltek, Inc.** (Ramsey, MN) successfully passed an ANSI/ISO/ASQ Q9001:2008 surveillance audit and maintains its certification to the ISO9001:2008 standard.

■ **Avalon Precision Casting Company** (Brook Park, OH) successfully passed an ANSI/ISO/ASQ Q9001:2008 surveillance audit and maintains its certification to the ISO9001:2008 standard.

■ **Kovatch Castings**, a Uniontown, OH-investment caster, started construction for a 15,000-ft² expansion in August. New equipment to be installed includes process ovens and a heat-recovery system for air compressors. The project received a \$1-million grant from Ohio's Targeting Energy Efficiency program, supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

■ **American Brass & Aluminum**, City of Commerce, CA, has been bought by **IPS Corp.**, Compton, CA, for an unreported price. Both companies supply the plumbing market: AB&A produces plumbing fittings, including brass plumbing drains and fittings, cleanouts and associated accessories; and IPS produces adhesives used in plumbing. "This acquisition strengthens IPS's market position by broadening our product offerings for the North American plumbing wholesaler and contractor markets," stated IPS Plumbing Division president Nick Cassella. He emphasized that AB&A would be an important brand and product area for IPS, as it offers bundled solutions and a more streamlined process for its customers.



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