

Enhanced the environmentally sound management of batteries from conventional, hybrid and electric vehicles



2013–2014 Project

Environmentally Sound Management of Selected End-of-life Vehicle Batteries, Including Spent Lead-acid Batteries (SLABs), in North America

Building on the Article 13 report from the CEC Secretariat on the environmental hazards of transboundary spent lead-acid battery recycling, this project developed technical guidelines on environmentally sound management practices for secondary lead smelters and other facilities that process these batteries, including best practices and technologies for collecting and recycling in a manner that protects the environment, and the health and safety of workers and the public. The project also included the compilation of practices to improve the end-of-life management of batteries from electric-drive vehicles, as well as a study to determine emission factors from a selected secondary lead smelting facility to support the development of new regulations in Mexico.

Key Accomplishments

- The project will support the adoption of practices and actions leading to a reduction of lead emissions from secondary lead smelting facilities to air, water and soil, and will help reduce lead exposure to workers and communities
- Building on the recommendations from the CEC's Article 13 report and this current project, Mexico developed its standard NOM-166-SEMARNAT-2014 related to lead emissions from secondary lead smelters

Products

- *Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Spent Lead-acid Batteries in North America*
 - *Environmentally Sound Management of End-of-life Batteries from Electric-drive Vehicles in North America*
 - Emission factors from a selected secondary lead smelting facility in Mexico
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Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Stakeholders and beneficiaries include the federal governments, environmental agencies, trade agencies and environmental compliance monitoring agencies in Canada, Mexico and the United States; the secondary lead smelting industry; the battery manufacturing industry; the automotive industry; universities and research centers such as *Instituto Politécnico Nacional* and *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*; nongovernmental organizations; and technical experts on the environmentally sound management of SLABs.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

