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OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MAY _5 1987

Mr. William C. Duncan
Vice President
Compliance Recycling Industries
8200 S. Akron, Suite 112
Englewood, CO 80112

Dear Mr. Duncan:

As requested in our telephone conversation on April 15, 1987, and in your letter of the same date, I am responding to your request for the Agency's interpretation (as it applies to RCRA regulations) of your process for the treatment of electroplating rinse water.

My understanding of your process is that only rinse water is fed to a tank near the electroplating line. The rinse water is then pumped through a filter to a "compliance module" that contains anionic and cationic ion exchange resins which remove metals, chromates, and cyanide. The water exiting the module is deionized and can be recycled back as rinse water, or sent to disposal. Also, you have determined that neither the treated rinse water nor the spent ion exchange resin exhibits any of the hazardous waste characteristics.

First, I must apologize if I misled you during our telephone conversation. I have discussed your process with others at the Agency, and have determined that your ion exchange resins (containing the cations and anions removed from the rinse water) and the filter from the transfer module fit the definition of a sludge (see 40 CFR 260.10). Therefore, the used resins and filter are F006 hazardous wastes, even if they do not exhibit any of the hazardous waste characteristics. Thus, it will be necessary for the electroplaters to comply with the generator requirements, including manifesting the shipment of these cannisters to your regeneration facility. Because your regeneration is a recycling activity, you will not require a permit, unless you store the cannisters for any length of time before you process them.

Also, any wastes generated during your ion exchange resin regeneration process would also be considered as F006 wastes via the derived-from rule, with the exception of the recovered metal that you sell as a product.

RO 11244

I hope that I have answered your questions satisfactorily. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 382-4787.

Sincerely,

Edwin F. Abrams
Chemical Engineer