

# News Release



ARIZONA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
1110 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
**Contact:** Mark Shaffer, (602) 771-2215  
[www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
1275 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
**Contact:** Amy Rezzonico, (602) 542-8019  
[www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Metco Metal Finishing Inc. to Pay \$75,000 Penalty, Conduct Environmental Cleanup to Resolve Hazardous Waste Violations**

PHOENIX (June 27, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Metco Metal Finishing Inc. will pay a \$75,000 penalty as part of a consent judgment entered in Maricopa County Superior Court for hazardous waste violations at the South Phoenix plating facility.

In addition, Metco Metal Finishing, located at 3508 E. Corona Ave., will spend \$50,000 for an as yet undetermined supplemental environmental project, institute an environmental management system at its plant, and conduct regular audits by a third party for three years.

The settlement with Metco brings to 12 the number of electroplating facilities in Arizona brought into compliance with hazardous-waste rules under ADEQ's "Plating Initiative." ADEQ launched the initiative in 2008 after facility inspections beginning in 2004 determined that many facilities were not in compliance with the Arizona Hazardous Waste Act, which regulates hazardous waste in the state.

The company was cited for a total of 26 violations following ADEQ inspections in 2006 and 2007. The violations include disposal of hazardous waste without a permit, failing to properly mark containers, and failing to determine if some stored materials were hazardous waste.

In 2005, Metco Metal Finishing paid a \$100,000 penalty for hazardous waste violations after a cyanide gas release left two employees unconscious in late 2003.

"Their inappropriate management of hazardous waste put employees and the community at risk but the company has stepped up and improved the way it does business," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

"Any company handling hazardous waste needs to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Tom Horne said.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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