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**Media Contact:**

Melissa Williamson  
mwpublicrelations@gmail.com  
818-270-8638

## U.S. Business Leaders Gather in China to Address Factory Closures

(Santa Fe Springs, CA – September 6, 2011) – More than 200 U.S. and Chinese business leaders will gather in Nanjing China for the Environmental Health and Safety Summit Sept. 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> to address the closures of more than 70 percent of China's lead-acid battery factories that were abruptly shut down by the Chinese government for environmental and safety reasons earlier this year. These shut downs have lead to a battery shortage across the world that has already cost millions of dollars in lost revenue and will continue to do so throughout the year.

The Environmental Health and Safety Summit organized by Battery Council International (BCI) and the China Electrical Equipment Industrial Association (CEEIA) will bring EPA and OSHA experts together with U.S. lead battery and environmental business leaders to provide assistance and knowledge to move China forward in modernizing plants, utilizing more mass production methods, purchasing better environmental protection equipment, implementing better standard operating procedures and to provide improved conditions for workers.

The rapid growth of the Chinese industrial sector over the past 20 years, combined with inconsistent zoning decisions, allowed for the construction of residential units in close proximity to factories. Additionally, current manufacturing conditions have allowed for 32 percent of the lead utilized in the manufacturing process to be lost to the environment, a situation that greatly contrasts the circumstances in the U.S. where less than one percent of lead utilized will reach workers or the environment.

With the guidance and expertise of industry leaders such as Victor Cheng, Event Organizer and President of Nepo Inc., Bob Williamson, General Manager of Wil Power Battery & DC Power Specialists, and EnviroGuard President Doug Frazier, coupled with a line up of industry speakers, the Summit will leave China, and other developing manufacturing countries, with action plans to reopen plants and move production forward.

The factories in China will remain shut down until manufacturing conditions improve and proper governmental representatives can fully assess each factory. For more information about the Summit and the current manufacturing crisis in China, please visit [nepodc.com/summit](http://nepodc.com/summit).

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