

Doe Run Backgrounder

Fabricated Products Inc.

Fabricated Products Inc. (FPI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Doe Run Company (Doe Run). The Vancouver, Washington, plant produces lead oxide for lead battery manufacturing as its primary product, along with small quantities of lead billets used by customers to make ammunition. FPI's primary customers are top lead battery manufacturers.

HISTORY

The company, known today as FPI, began as Seafab Metals Company in Seattle, Washington, with both oxide and metal fabrication plants. The assets of this business were acquired in 1996 by FPI, a subsidiary of Doe Run. In 1997, FPI divided its business into two segments to move each operation closer to customers. Lead fabrication moved to Casa Grande, Arizona, and operates under the name Seafab Metals Company. The oxide manufacturing operation transferred to Vancouver, Washington, for easier freight transportation and customer access. It operates under the FPI name.

THE DOE RUN COMPANY'S ROLE

FPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Doe Run. Doe Run's chief executive officer, Jerry Pyatt, also serves as president of FPI. Dave Olkkonen serves as general manager of FPI.

FACTS

- The FPI operation in Vancouver, Washington, employs 11 people, and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The Vancouver plant is ISO compliant and holds accreditation to ISO 9001:2015.

PRODUCT DETAILS

- Lead oxide is made by oxidizing lead metal in a ball mill. FPI operates three ball mills. Chunks of lead go into a large drum, tumbling around to create friction and heat that oxidizes the metal into small particles.

- Customer orders dictate the particle size and density of the lead oxide.
- Lead oxide is found in both the positive and negative plates of the lead battery. Approximately half of the lead in a battery takes the form of oxide pasted on the battery's lead grid.
- Lead oxide is recaptured in the recycling process for lead batteries, along with lead grids, posts and other lead-bearing components.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2018, FPI in Vancouver surpassed 18 years without a lost-time accident.

CONTACT

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