Reviewer's report

**Title:** The drivers and human health impacts of China's lead-acid battery industry

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 9 May 2013

**Reviewer:** Bruce Lanphear

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This is a timely review article about a largely unrecognized source of lead poisoning in China -- at least to experts outside of China. It is also represents a major source for other industrializing countries.

My only major comment is that it would be useful for the readers if the authors can include discussion on the global dimensions of lead poisoning from batteries. It is within our reach to phase out leaded gasoline and ban lead paints, but lead batteries pose a huge public health hazard for which there is no cheap replacement.

Page 3, line 45: “afflicts” isn’t the most accurate term. The authors should consider the term “affects”.

Page 4, lines 70-71: I am not aware of research indicating that 99% of absorbed lead is naturally excreted in adults. The authors should check this statement for accuracy and provide a citation.

Page 16, lines 348-349: The CDC has released a document concluding that there is “no safe level of lead exposure” which should be cited in place of the newspaper article.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests to declare.