

VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 29, 2022
MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chair Sara Head called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m.

II. Director's Report

Tyler Harris shared the Director's report in Ali R. Ghasemi's absence. The District is currently interviewing for an Air Quality Specialist position in the compliance division with about 14 candidates. Recruitments will soon be opened for several positions in the planning division including Supervising Air Quality Engineer and an Air Quality Specialist. The District is in the process of issuing an authority to construct at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center for installation of a renewable natural gas facility which will reduce GHG emissions by 95,000 metric tons per year.

The District will be complying with Senate Bill (SB) 1137 which was signed by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2022. Per SB 1137, no new well permits will be issued by CalGEM within a health protection zone of 3,200 feet from a sensitive receptor by January 1, 2023. By January 1, 2027, SB 1137 will require a leak detection response plan from all operators with a production facility or well with a wellhead in a health protection zone. CalGEM will enter a memorandum of understanding with agencies including air districts to implement and enforce SB 1137.

Tyler Harris proposed amendments to some obsolete provisions in the Committee bylaws including updating the meeting address and changing the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sara Head suggested addressing these amendments in the January 2023 meeting which several members of the Committee agreed to.

III. Roll Call

Present

Donald Bird

Edward Carloni

Leslie Cornejo

Jan Hauser

Michael Hughes

Thomas Lucas

Hugh McTernan

Aracely Preciado

Joan Burns

Steve Colomé

Stephen Frank

Sara Head

Rainford Hunter

Kirsten Marble

Richard Nick

Excused

Jay Berger
Jennifer Hernández

Ali Ghasemi
Paul Meehan

Staff

Tyler Harris
Keith Macias

John Henkelman

Public

Michael McHale
Cindy Stines

IV. Minutes

Sara Head asked if any members would like to make a motion to approve the minutes. Richard Nick moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022, Advisory Committee Meeting. Stephen Frank seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted yes.

V. Comments from the Committee

Sara Head asked if any other committee members had comments, and none were offered.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

VIII. New Business

Proposed Amendments to Rule 74.15 Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters

Tyler Harris provided an overview of the proposal to amend Rule 74.15 and a brief PowerPoint presentation. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to incorporate comments received from EPA on September 22, 2022, so that EPA may adopt this rule into the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Rule 74.15 was adopted in 1989 and applies to units with a heat input rating of 5 MMBTU per hour or greater with the intention of reducing NOx and CO emissions.

The proposed amendments first include editorial changes to Section B.4.a. and B.4.b. to state emissions "SHALL NOT EXCEED" the specified limits. Second, an amendment to Section C.2.a. to include an alternate NOx emission limit on firing alternate fuels during natural gas

curtailment. Third, amendments to Sections C.4., D.4., and D.5. to add start-up requirements to minimize NOx emissions by including NOx limit and recordkeeping.

This rule applies to 104 units at 44 different facilities. Of these 104 units, 10 are shut down, 20 already comply with the Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) limit, 47 are expected to operate under low-use requirements, and the remaining 27 have average cost-effectiveness below the \$39,000/ton NOx threshold.

Tyler Harris completed his presentation discussing the schedule for adoption. There was no public workshop because the changes were administrative. The rule is scheduled to go before the Air Pollution Control Board (APCB) on January 10, 2023.

Sara Head asked the Committee if there were any questions. Thomas Lucas inquired about the State's intention to curtail natural gas consumption. Tyler Harris clarified that natural gas curtailment is applicable to an emergency situation only (i.e. colder weather conditions that cause increased use in furnaces), in which industrial facilities may need to switch to alternative fuel. Sara Head also mentioned a larger effort by the State under SB 100 to decarbonize electrical systems in the State including moving away from natural gas.

Joan Burns asked if the recordkeeping amendment to section D.4. was due to a request from EPA. She questions how the recordkeeping language will affect cold start-up exemptions. Tyler Harris confirmed the change was requested by EPA and clarified that the intention of recordkeeping is to keep track of the cold start-ups and how long it takes to reach operating temperatures so that there is an understanding of the excess emissions generated from those processes. Keith Macias mentions that cold start-up is when most emissions are generated therefore it's an important process to track. Tyler Harris also clarified that the proposed emission limits during cold start-up were calculated by District engineers to be equivalent to the normal uncontrolled operation of a unit combusting natural gas or alternative fuels. As such, the rule amendments should not impact facility operations.

Sara Head asked if there were any comments from the public. No comments were given.

Michael Hughes made a motion that the Committee approve the recommended rule amendments be adopted as written by staff. Richard Nick seconded the motion. The committee voted 14 yes, 1 no. Thomas Lucas voted no, voicing concerns that no facility operators have commented in approval or disapproval of the rule amendments.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:41 p.m.

Prepared by:

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Air Pollution Control District Staff