

The Business Bulletin

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

September - October | 2001

www.valleyair.org

Regulation VIII Updates

On October 8th, the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is expected to impose sanctions for the first time on the Valley Air District for not having an approved PM-10 regulation [Reg. VIII]. These sanctions will require new major sources and major modifications to supply offsets at a 2-to-1 ratio [two pounds of offsets for every one pound of increased emissions] for all permits issued after October 8, 2001. The District's current regulations only require offset ratios from 1-to-1 up to 1.5-to-1.

The District's Governing Board must first approve any PM-10 control regulation prior to being submitted for EPA consideration. The first possible date the Governing Board can approve Reg. VIII is October 31 during a special meeting. Representatives from various industries have expressed opposition to Reg. VIII, despite the pending sanctions.

Facility Testing

Many District permits require businesses to conduct periodic emissions and/or performance tests of their equipment. These tests ensure that the equipment operates properly and stays within regulatory emissions limits. Periodic performance tests also help to improve air quality, enhance efficiency and save energy.

One of the most common tests is the source test, which analyzes captured samples of pollutants emitted from a stack or vent during industrial processes. The pollutants typically measured include nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter. In some cases, tests for toxic or hazardous air pollutants are required. Regulations call for many facilities to conduct yearly source tests, while others may only have to do initial testing when the equipment is first put into operation. A facility's permit or the applicable District rule will specify testing frequency, as well as the emissions limits. All source test firms must be California Air Resources Board [CARB] certified in the specific test methods they intend to use.

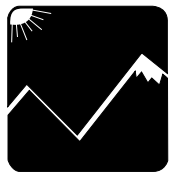
The performance test, which is often required, includes pollutant capture and destruction efficiency analyses, as well as examinations of vapor recovery systems at gasoline stations for pressure decay, leaks, back pressure, and air-to-liquid ratios. In addition to an initial analysis for new or modified stations, the required frequency of these tests ranges from twice per year [air-to-liquid ratio] to once every five years. CARB certification of test contractors is also required for some of these tests.

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ICAT Grant Program

The California Air Resources Board [CARB] has recently announced that it is accepting proposals for its Innovative Clean Air Technologies [ICAT] Program through October 10, 2001. This program will provide co-funding of up to \$1 million for demonstration projects for new technologies that can reduce air pollution in California and benefit the State's economy.

Please log on to the CARB web site @ <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/icat/icat.htm> for more information.



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Finally, businesses must notify the District at least 30 days in advance of all source tests and submit the test protocol a minimum of 15 days ahead of time. Please check with the District regarding the various timeframes for tests.

The best advice is to routinely review the Authority to Construct or Permit to Operate to ensure compliance with any testing requirements.

Expedited Permit Processing

In response to the unprecedented energy problems faced by the State, the Valley Air District has devised and implemented a number of special measures to assist businesses in coping with the challenges of this crisis.

These measures were aimed at maximizing operational flexibility for businesses while minimizing and mitigating environmental impacts to the Valley residents.

In recent months, the District has processed and issued permits for 14 new power plants with a total generating capacity of 3,359 MW.

Additionally, 14 applications are currently under review for plants with a total generating capacity of 1,437 MW. Finally, the District has also issued permits for 375 new back-up generators.

Rules | Regulations

Rule 4601

[Architectural Coatings]:
Public workshops completed.
Governing Board hearing
scheduled for Wednesday,
October 31, 2001.

Regulation VIII

[Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions]:
Public workshops completed.
Governing Board hearing
scheduled for Wednesday,
October 31, 2001.

Rule 4623

[Storage of Organic Liquids]:
Final public workshops scheduled
tentatively scheduled for October
2001.

Rule 4663

[Organic Solvent Cleaning,
Storage, and Disposal]:
Final public workshops tentatively
scheduled for October 2001.

Valley Air District Directory

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Smog Info Line
[800] 766-4463
Smoking Vehicle
[800] 559-9247
Job Line
[559] 230-6019

Northern Region Office

[209] 557-6400
Complaint Line
[800] 281-7003
Small Business Assistance
[209] 557-6446

Central Region Office

[559] 230-6000
Complaint Line
[800] 870-1037
Small Business Assistance
[559] 230-5888

Southern Region Office

[661] 326-6900
Complaint Line
[800] 926-5550
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[661] 326-6969

Internet

Valley Air District Web Site
www.valleyair.org