

The Business Bulletin

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

2001 Summer Issue

www.valleyair.org

Coping with the Energy Crisis

In response to the unprecedented energy problems faced by the state, the District has devised and implemented a number of measures to assist businesses during this crisis. These steps are aimed at maximizing operational flexibility for businesses while minimizing and mitigating environmental impacts to San Joaquin Valley residents.

Emergency Stand-by Diesel Engines

There are approximately 1,200 diesel-powered generators with valid permits for emergency operations in the District. These permits limit operations of the engines to emergencies and for a specific number of hours for testing annually, generally 200 hours per year. The District defines an emergency as a period when the Independent System Operator [ISO] declares a stage 3 power alert and rolling blackouts are imminent or occurring anywhere in the San Joaquin Valley. Emergency engines can be legally operated under these circumstances. Power curtailments due to voluntary demand reduction or rate incentive programs, however, do not qualify as emergencies. To operate engines under any circumstances other than emergencies, owners must obtain a permit for limited use engines.

Limited Use Engines

Facilities needing to operate engine-generators during periods other than those defined as emergencies by the District must modify their permits accordingly. Limited use engines are permitted for operations up to 1,000 hours per year if they are equipped with necessary air pollution control. To qualify for these permits, engines must have dry particulate filters and cannot exceed 6.9 grams of nitrogen oxides per horsepower-hour.

Registered Portable Diesel Engines

Portable diesel engines that are registered with the state or the District can be operated to provide emergency power under limited circumstances. These engines can be operated if the ISO has declared a stage 3 power emergency alert and rolling blackouts are imminent or occurring. The use of registered portable equipment is limited to the duration of the blackout at the facility, the time needed to turn on the unit in advance of the blackout, and the period needed to maintain power as operations are returned back to the grid.

Heavy-Duty Engine Program Status

The Valley Air District's Heavy-Duty Engine Program staff has processed hundreds of applications submitted during the current program cycle.

"To date, we have received an amazing 723 applications for more than 2,000 engines," reported Dave Mitchell, mobile sources supervisor with the Valley Air District.

Staff is currently monitoring the previously funded engines to ensure they meet program criteria, calculating emission reductions and incentive amounts, as well as preparing contracts. The District appreciates the patience of applicants that are waiting for applications to be processed. The strong interest in the program from both the private and public sectors contribute significantly to achieving the Valley Air District's clean air goals.

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San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Expedited Permit Processing

To ensure that the District's review of permit applications does not impede construction and operation of additional power generating capacity, the agency is committed to expeditious processing of permit applications. If applicants agree to pay the costs associated with overtime due to processing of their applications, the District can issue permits within 30 days of receiving a complete application. This time frame is shortened to 21 days for power plants that will be operational by September 30, 2001.

To obtain any of the permits described here, contact the local Business Assistance office: [209] 557-6446 in the Modesto area, [559] 230-5888 in the Fresno area, and [661] 326-6969 in the Bakersfield area.

CAPP

The Certified Air Permitting Professional Program [CAPP] provides a pool of professionals trained to verify and certify permit applications as being in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. A complete list of CAPP certified personnel is available on the Valley Air District's website @ www.valleyair.com.

For further information about this program, contact George Heinen, technical projects coordinator, at either (559) 230-5909 or @ george.heinen@valleyair.com.

Rules/Regulations

Regulation VIII [Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions]: Final public workshops tentatively scheduled in August 2001.

Rule 4623 [Storage of Organic Liquids]: Final public workshops tentatively scheduled in October 2001.

Rule 4663 [Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal]: Final public workshops tentatively scheduled in 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
Small Business Assistance
[661] 326-6969

Internet

Valley Air District Web Site
www.valleyair.org