



# *Kern Oil & Refining Co.*

7724 E. PANAMA LANE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93307-9210  
(661) 845-0761 FAX (661) 845-0330

Received  
OCT 22 2007  
SJVAPCD

October 19, 2007

Mr. Jon Adams  
SJVAPCD  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726-0244

**Subject: Comment for COM #4455 – Inspection of Components at Petroleum Refineries,  
Liquid Processing Facilities, and Chemical Plants**

Dear Mr. Adams.

Kern Oil & Refining Co. (Kern) is submitting the following comments on the Subject Compliance Policy.

In Section III.A the policy states, "1. One inspector utilizing the hydrocarbon analyzer. 2. The other inspector observing, keeping a tally of components checked, recording leaks, and taking notes as required." Kern staff has observed on multiple occasions that the two inspectors do not communicate about the components being tested and that inspector #2 can not see the area being inspected. Kern staff has also observed on multiple occasions that #2 inspector does not focus on the task and therefore does not record the component count accurately. Kern recommends that language is added to the policy that instructs #1 inspector to verbalize tested components to #2 inspector what component is being tested; that way the two inspectors agree on the component counts and it keeps #2 focused on the task. Kern recommends the following language added as III.A.3:

For non-leaking components the inspector with the hydrocarbon analyzer needs to verbally identify each component type tested for recording by the observing inspector (e.g. TC-TC-TC-flange-TC-TC-valve, etc.)

Kern staff has observed that inspectors do not complete representative sampling of fugitive equipment. Instead of completing an emissions unit, area, or section the inspector appears to be "cherry picking" in areas of possible leaks. The inspector will complete a very small sample of components from one emissions unit, walk away without completing the unit inspection, and move to a second, third or fourth unit and begin sampling again. This kind of sampling does not produce a fair representative sample of the total fugitive components at a facility. Facilities with tens of thousands of fugitive components should not be judged and fined based on the 500 components an inspector thought would be leaking.

Kern understands the importance of locating high-emitting components, but the facility needs to be given the opportunity to demonstrate the program's effectiveness. Therefore, Kern recommends the following language be added as III.A.4:

SJVUAPCD  
Mr. Adams  
Page 2

Fugitive component sampling is intended to confirm the effectiveness of the fugitive component program. Therefore, inspections of fugitive components will consist of reasonably associated equipment; whole emissions units, processes, or sample areas. Do not move between different units until the first unit, process or sample area is complete.

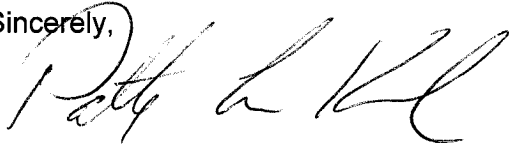
Kern also recommends the addition of language to Sections C.4 and C.5 to clarify analysis of multiple-day inspections.

The leak percent is determined by summing all of the components inspected within the annual inspection cycle.

Please be advised that these comments are also applicable to District Policy COM 2160 – Inspection of Components at Light Crude Oil Production Facilities, Natural Gas Production Facilities and Natural Gas Processing Facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at (661) 845-0761.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Lee Kusek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patty" being the most prominent.

Patty Lee Kusek  
Environmental Coordinator