

## **Fate of refinery still hazy**

### **But Shell hoping to reach deal with EPA to keep plant open for near term**

By Erin Waldner, Californian staff writer  
Bakersfield Californian, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2004

Shell Oil officials are confident they will reach an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will allow the Bakersfield refinery to stay open into the new year, a company spokesman said Monday.

When Shell agreed in August to keep the refinery open beyond Oct. 1, it was contingent on the EPA agreeing to modify an agreement Shell made to cut companywide emissions.

Shell spokesman Stan Mays said the two are close to reaching a deal.

"It's just not done yet," he said.

Lisa Fasano, a spokeswoman for the EPA, said she did not know where the negotiations between Shell and the agency stood.

If Shell and the EPA don't reach an agreement, Shell will have to close the refinery by Dec. 31.

The refinery's demise will lead to even higher gas prices, according to industry experts. Shell makes 2 percent of the state's gasoline supply and 6 percent of the diesel. It also means the loss of about 250 jobs.

Shell has said if it reaches an agreement with the EPA, the company will keep the refinery open until March 31, unless a buyer for the facility surfaces.

Mays said the company continues to talk with a short list of prospective buyers but no deal has been made.

About half of the employees at the refinery have accepted transfers to other Shell locations, according to Mays. Some of those employees had already made plans to relocate when the company announced the refinery was staying open beyond Oct. 1.

Mays said Monday that "as of today, they all continue to be assigned to the Bakersfield refinery."

Mays said employees have been told the longest they'll need to stay on at the refinery is March.

## **Daily Digest**

### **Staff to get \$5,000 for fuel-efficient cars**

S.F. Chronicle, Tues, Nov. 30, 2004

A Silicon Valley software company has found a novel way to cut oil use and air pollution: Pay employees to buy more-efficient cars.

Hyperion Solutions Corp. on Monday started a program that will reimburse employees \$5,000 when they buy a car that gets at least 45 miles per gallon of gasoline. The business software company, based in Santa Clara, will provide the payments for up to 50 of its 2,500 employees each quarter and expects to spend about \$1 million each year on the program.

Hyperion's chief executive, Godfrey Sullivan, called on other companies to copy the idea. "One of the most important steps an individual can take to improve the quality of our air is to drive a vehicle that goes further on a gallon or liter of gas," he said in a news release. "One of the most important steps a company can take is to help them."