

Action Summary Minutes

CENTRAL REGION HEARING BOARD MEETING

Central Region Office Governing Board Room
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Mr. Jerry Boren, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Jerry Boren, Chair – Engineer	Present
Jim Waterman – Attorney	Present
Gerry Mulligan – Public	Present
Dr. Lorraine Goodwin, M.D. – Medical	Present

Staff present – Michael Carrera, Compliance Manager; Annette Williamson, Assistant Legal Counsel; Lynn Sargenti, Senior Office Assistant

3. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2012

4. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Boren asked the Clerk to verify that all items had been properly noticed. The Clerk responded that they had. All those present to testify were sworn in by the Chair. The Chair asked that the agenda packet and any addenda brought forth to be entered into the official record.

A.	C-12-07S	Saint Gobain Containers, Inc. 24441 Avenue 12 Madera, CA 93637
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Petitioner: R. Todd Rosebrock

Mr. Carrera presented the staff report. Saint Gobain Containers, Inc. (SGCI) operates a container glass manufacturing operation that consists of one 75 MMBtu/Hr natural gas-fired regenerative glass-melting furnace and one 85 MMBtu/hr oxy-fuel fired glass-melting furnace. To control particulate matter (PM) and sulfur oxides (SO_x), the two furnaces vent into a common stack that is ducted to a semi-dry scrubber with an associated electrostatic precipitator before being discharged to the atmosphere.

A regenerative furnace has high temperature brick lined ducts arranged in a checkerboard pattern (checker packs) to capture heat as flue gas exits the furnace. These checker packs run in a parallel configuration down each side of the furnace. When the flue duct is thoroughly heated by the exhaust stream, the air flow is reversed and the exhaust flue duct becomes the combustion air inlet. With two sets of regenerative flue ducts, air flow can be reversed at regular intervals (approximately once every 15 minutes). The brick ducting then transfers heat to the inlet air flow and allows the furnace to achieve/maintain higher overall temperatures.

As the flue gases, which contain sodium hydroxide and sulfur dioxide, pass through the checker packs, they cool and condense sodium sulfates onto the refractory surface (interior furnace lining). These sulfate deposits gradually build up and reduce the flue opening, and create problems that affect the furnaces overall performance including lowering furnace temperatures and undesirable back pressures. The occurrence of plugging is common in regenerative furnaces as they age throughout their service campaign. The deposits can also cause severe damage to the furnace refractory via corrosion and/or mechanical attack.

To address these issues, SGCI plans to apply additional heat using a supplementary natural gas-fired burner at the bottom of the checker packs and ports where the plugging can be substantial. This will cause the sulfates to liquefy and drip onto the regenerator floor. The application of more heat, while addressing the sulfate build-up, will likely create emissions in excess of the permitted amounts. Additionally, SGCI plans to continue its manufacturing operation and keep all pollution control equipment online, during the variance period.

SGCI had attempted to perform a checker pack burn in March of 2011, under the variance C-10-23S, but had difficulties each day and were unable to complete the burn in the time allowed by the variance. They hope to complete the check pack burn during this variance period.

Mr. Boren asked why this maintenance is being done in August as this appears to be the worst time for this due to air quality. Mr. Rosebrock stated that at this time it has the least impact from a business stand point and has the least impact on customers.

Dr. Goodwin asked how far from the college the facility is located. Mr. Rosebrock replied that at this time, it would not impact the students and faculty because school is not in session.

Mr. Waterman asked who the glass is being made for. Mr. Rosebrock stated that the current glass being made is for the wine industry.

Mr. Waterman asked how their bottles are shipped. Mr. Rosebrock stated they are shipped by truck, but they have begun to light-weight their bottles so they can get more bottles per load which reduces the amount of trucks

on the road. He stated that the weight of the bottles have been reduced by approximately 30%.

Dr. Goodwin asked if they have a program with the college to take students for internship. Mr. Rosebrock stated they have had staff meet with someone from the college regarding students for internship. At this time, he believed they are waiting for fall classes to start.

Mr. Mulligan asked if this maintenance is annual or on an as needed basis. Mr. Rosebrock stated he did this in March, but it was not completely successful. He stated this particular furnace is older technology and it is due for replacement at the end of next year and a new, more efficient oxygen-fired furnace will replace it.

Mr. Rosebrock talked about the trouble he has been having with the subject furnace.

Dr. Goodwin asked how the oxy-fueled furnace worked. Mr. Rosebrock stated that this is new technology and went on to explain the operational differences between the furnaces.

Mr. Boren then asked Mr. Rosebrock if he had a presentation or comments he would like to make to the Board.

Mr. Rosebrock stated that there is a correction on Page 3, paragraph 7; regarding where it says, "The last time the checker pack burn was conducted, SGCI did not have a CEMS (*continuous emission monitoring system*) or COMS (*continuous opacity monitoring system*) unit." He stated they did have the CEMS and COMS units and will have the same abatement equipment in place this time as well. He is hoping will not have the failure as they did last time. Mr. Rosebrock stated that the cleaner these checkers are, the more efficient the furnace is. Therefore, over the variance period the emissions amassed should drop after the burn. Mr. Rosebrock also indicated that he hopes to have lower emissions over the life of the furnace.

Dr. Goodwin asked how the scrubber was fixed since they had operational trouble with this last time. Mr. Rosebrock indicated that the problems they had last time have been addressed. Additionally, he stated that the scrubber sprayers that help control particulate emissions have been cleaned as well.

Mr. Carrera asked Mr. Rosebrock about condition #6 where it limits the visible emissions to 95 %, but also states to not aggregate more than 3 minutes in any one hour during the variance period. He asked if the

facility has the ability to parse out the 3 minutes in an hour, or is it an hourly average that they see on their COMS.

Mr. Rosebrock responded that he thought it was not an hourly average, but thinks he is limited to each hour of air specific time. Mr. Carrera talked about the language used with other facilities in this same situation where they have stated to do daily observations for a certain period of daylight operating hours.

Mr. Carrera stated he wanted to make sure that the COMS would be able to accommodate and is concerned if the COMS can handle this. Mr. Carrera asked if anyone at the facility is certified to read visible emissions. Mr. Rosebrock stated they have several who are.

Mr. Boren asked Mr. Rosebrock if he understood the issue with Condition #6

Mr. Carrera stated that if the COMS have the ability to extract minute data, than the facility is probably okay and can monitor this. But if not, and it's an hourly rolling average, the facility would never know if in compliance or not.

Mr. Rosebrock was asked if he is comfortable with condition #6. Mr. Rosebrock was unsure. Mr. Carrera explained that with other glass and large stack facilities, the District has required that they do daily monitoring, even if only during certain periods and explained how that monitoring is done. At this point, Mr. Carrera recognized that it would likely not be an issue since the allowable opacity is at 95%.

Dr. Goodwin asked what the emission opacity is on a normal day. Mr. Rosebrock stated that typically, you could not see anything coming out of the stack.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Having decided the petition has met the required findings, on motion of Dr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Waterman, unanimously passed, the petitioner was granted a short variance.

5. The Central Region Hearing had not heard nor granted any emergency variances since the June 20, 2012, hearing.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments.
7. **HEARING BOARD COMMENTS:** None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.
9. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** August 15, 2012 at the Central Region Office in Fresno.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair, Mr. Boren, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.