

Action Summary Minutes

CENTRAL REGION HEARING BOARD MEETING

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

Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 10:02 a.m.

MINUTES

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Mr. Jerry Boren, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

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

Staff present – Ryan Hayashi, Supervising Air Quality Specialist; Patrick Houlihan, Senior Air Quality Specialist; Annette Williamson, Assistant Legal Counsel; Lynn Sargenti, Senior Office Assistant; Michelle Franco, [Deputy](#) Clerk to the Boards

3. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 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-12-06S Chevron USA-, Inc.
13D & 25D Oil Cleaning Plants
Coalinga Oil Field
Coalinga, CA

Petitioner: Bikky Summers, Lance Ericksen

Mr. Houlihan presented the staff report. Chevron USA, Inc. (CUSA) operates equipment with the production and storage of crude oil within the Coalinga Oil Field. The 25D oil cleaning plant (OCP) has nine fixed roof storage tanks under a vapor recovery system (VRS) and the 13D OCP

has seven fixed roof storage tanks under a VRS. As required by the District Rules and permit conditions, the tanks at the OCPs are equipped with a VRS to control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. The oil field also has a well vent casing collection system (CCS-1) that connects a majority of the wells and controls the vapors that come up through the individual well casings. These vapors can contain VOCs and H₂S and are required to be controlled as well.

CUSA has determined that it is necessary to shut down the 13D and 25D VRS to flush the vapor piping. This includes the overhead lines from the tanks to the compressors and the lines from the compressor discharge. As part of a preventative maintenance program, the vapor pipes require periodic flushing due to the deposition and accumulation of sulfur bearing compounds and scale. The deposits in the pipes cause increased backpressure. If the tank's backpressure becomes too high the tanks may vent to the atmosphere.

CUSA has requested a short variance from the requirements of District Rules 2010, 2070.7.0, 2201, 2520, 4401, and 4623 in addition to conditions of the subject Authorities to Construct (ATCs) and Permits to Operate (PTOs). If granted, the variance would provide relief to CUSA from having to incinerate the tank VRS and casing collection system vapors in the steam generators as required by the conditions of the permits. It would also allow wells with closed well vapor vents to produce into storage tanks that are not controlled by a VRS. Lastly, it would allow CUSA to continue to store VOC containing liquids in the subject tanks without a functional or operating VRS.

Mr. Waterman asked Mr. Houlihan what is normally done with the vapors. Mr. Houlihan explained the vapors are pulled off and sent to the steam generators and then used as a fuel source and is-are burned rather than ~~have them flare flared.~~, and They can also be injected back into the ground for disposal.

Mr. Mulligan asked if cooler weather would be a better time to perform this maintenance. Mr. Houlihan stated it is possible that in cooler weather there would be less chance of venting.

Mr. Schumacher asked if it would be possible to do ait a later date with cooler weather. Mr. Houlihan stated they would still require a variance regardless of when as the rule does not allow them to shut down the VRS.

Mr. Schumacher expressed concern regarding all this in the air at the time when the air here is already unhealthy. Mr. Hayashi explained that waiting

could cause more problems as it could lead to a breakdown. Ms. Summers agreed and mentioned a situation where this had already

happened once before and described what happens with the system when the system shuts down due to corrosion. The line is currently beginning to show signs of corrosion which could lead to a breakdown.

Mr. Erickson thanked Mr. Houlihan for his excellent ~~presentation and added very little~~. He stated that they would do as much preventative maintenance as possible.

Mr. Erickson added that the calculations for emissions would be the same regardless of the time of year or the weather. He also stated that the ambient temperature does not affect the calculations and does not seem to affect the amount of VOCs.

Public Comment: No public comment.

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

5. The Central Region Hearing had not heard nor granted any emergency variances since the April 18, 2012, hearing.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments.
7. **HEARING BOARD COMMENTS:** None.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.
9. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** July 18, 2012 at the Central Region Office in Fresno.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair, Mr. Boren, adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.