



Action Summary Minutes

SOUTHERN REGION HEARING BOARD MEETING

Southern Region Office Video Teleconference (VTC) Room
34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting held via teleconferencing (VTC) with the
Central Region Office (Fresno) participating via VTC.**

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Chair, Hollis Carlile, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Dr. Dean Haddock – Medical	Present
Hollis Carlile (Chair) – Engineer	Present
John Stovall – Attorney	Present
Nancy Dunn – Public	Present
William Bland – Public	Present

Staff present - Southern Region (Bakersfield): Ellyce Baldwin, Supervising Air Quality Inspector.

Central Region (Fresno): Patrick Houlihan, Senior Air Quality Specialist, Ryan Hayashi, Supervising Air Quality Specialist, Michelle Banuelos, acting as Deputy Clerk to the Board.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2012

The Chair, Hollis Carlile, asked if Mr. Bland could chair this meeting. William Bland, acting as Chair, asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes of June 13, 2012. Hearing no comments, Mr. Bland declared the minutes approved as submitted.

4. PUBLIC HEARING:

All those present to testify were sworn in by the Chair, and he requested they sign in.

A. S-12-32i Interim Mt. Poso Cogeneration, LLC
36157 Famoso Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93380

Petitioner: Mike Blakey

Mt. Poso has requested an interim variance, to be followed by a short variance, from District Rules 2010, 2070.7.0, 2201, 2520, and 4352, in addition to conditions of the applicable ATC and Permit to Operate (PTO). The requested interim variance period would be from July 11, 2012, until September 12, 2012, or until the petition for the short variance can be heard, whichever occurs first. If granted, the interim variance would allow Mt. Poso to operate with excess emissions of NOx and CO while the system is tuned. It would also allow excess ammonia slip and a limestone injection rate below what the ATC requires as biomass does not require the same rate of injection that coal does.

Mr. Houlihan noted a change to the Staff Report. Page six (6), number 16. All reports and notifications shall be submitted to the attention of Ellyce Baldwin, Supervising AQL.

Mr. Blakey thanked Mr. Houlihan and the Board for coming together in such short notice. They need this interim to be able to test the different mixes to help them acquire a NOx level that meets their emission limits. They are trying to go green and have been working on this project for a long time. The advantage of biomass is that they will use material that normally would be landfill waste or burned in the field. They can better regulate the amount of emissions in a controlled environment.

Mr. Stovall asked how many employees would be affected. Mr. Blakey answered there are 36 on the plant, plus ancillary positions such as truck drivers, field and farm employees, etc.

Dr. Haddock asked for more information about the last paragraph on page three, where it is noted the US EPA might not recognize this variance, should it be granted. Dr. Haddock indicated he is very much in favor of going green and avoiding burning in the fields.

Mr. Houlihan answered that the comment is there to advise or warn the Petitioning companies that the EPA reserves the right not to recognize their variances if they wish to do so. Although the companies have protection from the local Air District, the companies could still receive a fine from the EPA. It's very important that they follow the guidelines on their permits and not violate rules. The EPA rarely, if ever, makes comments on submitted Decision Orders or Petitions. The note pertains mostly for the larger, major sources.

Public Comments: None

Having decided the petition has met the required findings, on motion of Mr. Stovall and seconded by Ms. Dunn, unanimously passed, the petitioner was granted an interim variance.

5. The Southern Region Hearing Board granted four emergency variances since the June 13, 2012, Hearing Board meeting.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.
7. HEARING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.
8. NEW BUSINESS: None
9. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held via video conferencing (VTC) in the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) with the Central Region Office (Fresno) participating via VTC.
10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.