

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

A workshop will be held to present, discuss, and receive comments on the draft Best Available Control Technology (BACT) analysis for new or modified dairies. New dairies, and existing dairies that propose to increase their capacity, whose emissions are over one half of the major source thresholds, must obtain a pre-construction permit from the District, called an Authority to Construct permit, before commencing construction. Such proposals are subject to the District's New and Modified Stationary Source Review (NSR) Rule, Rule 2201, which implements NSR requirements from both state and federal law. One of the requirements of NSR is that new equipment and equipment that will be modified must control their air pollution emissions with BACT. These air pollution control requirements will apply only to new and expanding dairies.

As of January 1, 2004, state law requires that permits be obtained for all agricultural operations whose air pollution emissions exceed one-half of the major source threshold of any criteria pollutant. Such operations, including all existing dairies with emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) over 12.5 tons per year (approximately 1954 total head¹), are required to apply for permits from the Air Pollution Control District on or before July 1, 2004.

New dairies, and existing dairies that propose to increase their capacity, whose emissions are over these thresholds, must also obtain a pre-construction permit from the District, called an Authority to Construct permit, before commencing construction. Such proposals are subject to the District's New and Modified Stationary Source Review (NSR) Rule, Rule 2201, which implements NSR requirements from both state and federal law. One of the requirements of NSR is that new equipment and equipment that will be modified must control their air pollution emissions with Best Available Control Technology (BACT).

This evaluation will establish BACT for such new and modifying dairies, after a series of public workshops in which industry and other interested parties are invited to comment on our proposal. All written comments received will be addressed prior to the District finalizing this BACT determination.

¹ Dairies with less than 1954 total head are generally accepted by the District as producing VOC emissions less than 12.5 tons per year, and are therefore exempt from permitting and BACT requirements. However, the number 1954 total head is based on a set of worst-case assumptions, and it may be that some dairies with more than 1954 cows have emissions less than 12.5 tons of VOC per year, and would therefore be exempt from these requirements, also. To help dairy owners and operators to be aware of emissions from their operations and to determine whether permits and BACT are required, the District is developing some web-based emissions calculators, available soon at www.valleyair.org.

The workshops will be presented in-person and via video teleconferencing (VTC) at the following times and locations:

May 17, 2004 (Monday)

1:30 PM

In-person workshop: Modesto

VTC: Bakersfield and Fresno

May 18, 2004 (Tuesday)

1:30 PM

In-person workshop: Fresno

VTC: Bakersfield and Modesto

May 19, 2004 (Wednesday)

1:30 PM

In-person workshop: Bakersfield

VTC: Modesto and Fresno

Fresno: VTC Room, SJVUAPCD Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.

Bakersfield: VTC Room, SJVUAPCD Office, 2700 M Street, Suite 275

Modesto: VTC Room, SJVUAPCD Office, 4230 Kiernan Ave., Suite 130

Copies of the draft BACT analysis can be obtained by either calling (559) 230-6005 or by faxing your request to Daphne Garcia at (559) 230-6064. The draft BACT analysis, and other agriculture related issues, may be downloaded from the District's website: <http://www.valleyair.org>. Click on the link called, "New permitting and pollution control requirements for agricultural sources."

Written comments should be submitted by June 3, 2004, to Carlos Garcia, at SJVUAPCD, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726. For additional information, contact Carlos Garcia at carlos.garcia@valleyair.org or by phone at (559) 230-5900.