



NEWS

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**For Immediate Release
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Public Comment Period Begins

Valero Benicia Asphalt Plant Gets Preliminary OK for Title V Permit

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has made a preliminary decision to grant a Title V permit to the Valero Benicia Asphalt Plant, located at 3001 Park Road in Benicia. The Valero Benicia Asphalt Plant is a small-scale petroleum refinery that primarily produces asphalt from crude oil. The by-products are transferred to the adjacent Valero fuel refinery or sold to other companies for the production of various petroleum products.

The public comment period is from July 3, 2003 until August 11, 2003. During the public comment period, any member of the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed permit. A copy of the proposed permit can be found:

- 1) At the Benicia Public Library, 150 E. "L" Street, Benicia.
- 2) On the Air District web site at www.baaqmd.gov (follow the Title V links),
- 3) At the Air District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco. For an appointment call May Leung at (415) 749-4729.
- 4) For a hard copy of the permits, call the Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900 or write to: BAAQMD, Attn: Title V Permit Request, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

What is Title V?

Title V is part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, and requires all state and local governments to develop and implement operating permits for all major pollution emitting facilities. The EPA oversees these permit programs and the Air District is charged with implementing them in the Bay Area, in accordance with Federal guidelines.

Title V is intended to clarify the complex air quality permitting process by consolidating the multitude of federal, state, and local air pollution control regulations into one summary operating permit that covers all aspects of a facility's year-to-year air pollution activities. The Title V operating permit program is implemented under Air District Regulation 2, Rule 6. Public comment is important to the Title V process. A final decision will incorporate consideration of public comments on the proposal.

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