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JAN 19 2006

HEARING BOARD
BAY AREA AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MARY ROMAIDIS
CLERK
HEARING BOARD
BAY AREA AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
)	
CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA.)	No. 3509
(SHORELINE LANDFILL))	
)	ORDER GRANTING
For a Variance from Regulation 8, Rule 34,)	<u>EMERGENCY VARIANCE</u>
Sections 117.5, 301.1, 301.2, 303 and 305)	
and Title V Permit Condition # 16065,)	
Parts 3 and 5(c))	
_____)	

The above entitled matter, being an Application for Variance from the provisions of Regulation 8, Rule 34, Sections 117.5, 301.1, 301.2, 303 and 305 and Title V Permit Condition # 16065, Parts 3 and 5(c), having been filed on January 9, 2006, at 10:05 a.m., and having been considered by the Hearing Board:

THE HEARING BOARD STATES as the reasons for its decision and FINDS as to those matters in which findings are required:

1. Applicant filed this Application for Variance under the Emergency Variance procedures, Hearing Board Rules, Section 2.5. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 42359 and 42359.5, the Hearing Board determined that this Application properly could be ruled upon without notice and hearing. Prior to making this determination, and in accordance with

1 Hearing Board Rules Section 2.5.d.2, the Hearing Board requested and received a response to this
2 Application from the Air Pollution Control Officer. That response recommended the Emergency
3 Variance be granted because the relief is consistent with the intent of Regulation 8, Rule 34,
4 Section 117 which allows for landfill gas collection system components to be temporarily shut
5 down in order to prevent or extinguish fires. The Applicant exhausted the provisions of this
6 limited exemption, and while the Applicant has used all means available to them to extinguish the
7 fire, the fire continued into the five-day period allowed under Regulation 8, Rule 34, Section
8 117.5. Therefore, District staff believes Good Cause exists and recommends the variance be
9 granted, with certain recommended conditions, because of the emergency conditions of the fire,
10 and the possibility of the fire spreading if immediate compliance were required.

11 2. Applicant operates a closed solid waste landfill located at 2600 North Shoreline
12 Boulevard, Mountain View, California 94043 ("Facility"). The Facility has been issued a Major
13 Facility Review ("MFR") permit from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District ("District").
14 The Facility includes a landfill gas collection system which is used to collect and control landfill
15 gas generated from decaying refuse in the landfill. The landfill gas system consists of 264 vertical
16 wells, seven horizontal collectors, three blowers, and three flares. The landfill gas system,
17 including the flares and microturbines, is used to maintain compliance with District Regulation 8,
18 Rule 34, and the MFR permit.

19 3. On December 29, 2005, when driving by the well, the City of Mountain View
20 crews discovered a subsurface landfill fire from the landfill gas extraction well WA-1. City post-
21 closure crews took immediate action by turning off the vacuum to the well. They proceeded to
22 cover the well box and the immediate surrounding area with stockpiled dirt to cut off possible air
23 supply from the surface. In addition, 200 pounds of dry ice was dropped into the well to starve the
24 well of oxygen. The only adjacent gas well that could be affected is WA-2 which is located
25 approximately 240 feet to the west. WA-2 was monitored for any impact from the landfill fire.
26 The well monitoring readings indicated that it was operating at normal levels. Landfill surface

1 sweeps were conducted around the well, as appropriate, and surface emissions were within
2 regulatory requirements. The District staff was notified and permission for five days for the well
3 shutdown was received from the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), beyond the 24 hours
4 allowed as breakdown relief pursuant to District Regulation 8, Rule 34. An additional 475 pounds
5 of dry ice were dropped into the well casing on December 30, 2005.

6 District Regulation 8, Rule 34, Section 117.5 limits the shutdown time to a
7 maximum of five days. Because the temperature was down to nearly normal and the Carbon
8 Monoxide (CO) level was lower on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, from that which was recorded five
9 days before, the Applicant determined to apply the least possible vacuum to the well on Tuesday,
10 January 3, 2006 morning, in compliance with District Regulation 8, Rule 34, which was the end of
11 the five-day approval period from the APCO. However, on January 5, 2006 the well temperature
12 was significantly higher and the CO was at 50 ppm. It appeared that if the vacuum were to
13 continue being applied, the fire would revive and become worse. Therefore, in order to control the
14 situation, the well was turned off on January 5, 2006. The District staff was notified again and
15 additional landfill gas well shutdown permission was granted for five days, starting January 5,
16 2006. More dry ice was dropped and the well was monitored but the fire did not appear to be
17 nearly out.

18 An Emergency Variance Application was filed on January 9, 2006 in order to turn
19 the landfill gas well off for a period beyond the five days, until the fire is completely extinguished.
20 Continued operation of the well would exacerbate the fire which may spread and thereby damage
21 the landfill gas system and possibly increase potential emissions. The Applicant felt that keeping
22 the well offline until the fire is completely out is the best course of action and will cause the least
23 harm to the environment.

24 4. In order to mitigate excess emissions, the Applicant disconnected the landfill gas
25 well WA-01 from the vacuum. The maintenance crew covered the area around the wellhead with
26 additional clay and soil to cut off any possible air supply from the surface. The well casing was

1 filled with dry ice to starve the well of oxygen, and the wellhead box was sealed. Excess
2 emissions from the landfill are not expected when the well WA-01 is offline.

3 5. The Applicant's plan for returning to compliance is to turn off the well WA-01
4 for an extended period of time; monitor the temperature and carbon monoxide level more
5 frequently; monitor the surface around the area and add more soil cover if needed; drop more dry
6 ice in the well casing to stop any further fire; and evaluate the well after the fire is completely
7 extinguished. The Applicant will also perform surface monitoring for excess emissions.

8 6. This Variance will not cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any
9 considerable number of persons or to the public, or endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety
10 of any such persons or the public, or cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to
11 business or property.

12 7. The Applicant has given consideration to curtailing operations of the Facility in
13 lieu of obtaining a variance. Because of the nature of the Facility, the Applicant cannot curtail
14 operations in lieu of obtaining a variance. The landfill will continue to emit landfill gases even if
15 the Facility curtails on-site operations. The landfill gas well WA-01 must be shut down to
16 extinguish and control the subsurface landfill fire due to the flammable nature of landfill gas. The
17 landfill gas well WA-01 cannot be connected to the vacuum until the subsurface landfill fire is
18 completely extinguished. If the well is required to continue operating, the fire could spread and
19 significantly damage the landfill gas system, thereby causing excessive emissions. Therefore, the
20 landfill gas generation system cannot be curtailed and the only reasonable response to the landfill
21 fire is to shut down the well in question. Since Regulation 8, Rule 34, Section 117.5 limits the
22 time for the well to be offline for a maximum of five days, the Applicant determined to apply for
23 an Emergency Variance.

24 8. During the period that the well WA-01 is offline, there will be no excess
25 emissions.

26 9. The Hearing Board determined that the Applicant has demonstrated Good

1 Cause in this situation to grant the variance because of the emergency conditions of the fire, and
2 the possibility of the fire spreading if immediate compliance were required. The Hearing Board
3 also determined that the Applicant exhausted the provisions of the limited exemption under
4 Regulation 8, Rule 34, Section 117; and while the Applicant has used all means available to them
5 to extinguish the fire, the fire continued into the five-day period allowed under Regulation 8, Rule
6 34, Section 117.5. Also, the District staff recommended that the Emergency Variance be granted,
7 with certain conditions.

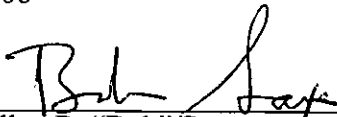
8 THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS:

9 A Variance from Regulation 8, Rule 34, Sections 117.5, 301.1, 301.2, 303 and 305
10 and Title V Permit Condition # 16065, Parts 3 and 5(c) be and is hereby granted from
11 January 10, 2006 to and including January 31, 2006, with the following conditions:

12 1. The Applicant shall continue to perform surface monitoring for landfill gas
13 emission leaks in the area surrounding well WA-i and at the wellhead casing-to-surface interface
14 at least twice per week during the emergency variance period. The Applicant shall record the
15 readings and submit a copy to the Director of Compliance and Enforcement within 30 days after
16 the variance has expired.

17 2. If the Applicant observes a surface emission reading during the emergency
18 variance period in excess of the allowable 500 ppm limit under Regulation 8, Rule 34, Section
19 303, the Applicant shall quantify the resulting excess emissions and submit it, in writing, to the
20 Hearing Board and the Director of Compliance and Enforcement within 30 days after the variance
21 has expired.

22 DATED: January 13, 2006

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Allan R. "Bob" Saxe