

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109
(415) 749-5000

APPROVED MINUTES

Summary of Board of Directors
Stationary Source Committee Meeting
9:30 a.m., Monday, April 16, 2007

1. **Call to Order – Roll Call:** Chairperson Scott Haggerty called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Present: John Gioia, Jerry Hill, Jake McGoldrick, Nate Miley, Michael Shimansky, John Silva, Pamela Torliatt.

Absent: Gayle B. Uilkema.

Also Present: Mark Ross, Board Chair.

2. **Public Comment Period:** There was none.
3. **Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2007:** Director Gioia moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Director Hill; carried unanimously without objection.
4. **Status Report Regarding Flare Minimization Plans Required Under Regulation 12, Rule 12: Flares at Petroleum Refineries:** *Staff reported on the status of Flare Minimization Plans.*

Kelly Wee, Director of Compliance and Enforcement thanked the Committee for adopting the first rule of its kind to control petroleum refinery flare emissions.

Through a Flare Minimization Plan (FMP) the rule minimizes the frequency and magnitude of flaring. Petroleum refineries are a complex industry where no flare system is the same. The rule recognizes the different refinery flare systems and allows the FMP's to be uniquely tailored to each refineries operational needs, experience running their systems without flaring and the different flare systems themselves.

The cornerstone of the FMP is the prevention measures the refineries will incorporate into their operations to minimize flaring. These measures can be operational such as taking more time to startup or shutdown a process unit, or the prevention measure can be equipment related; such as adding additional compressor capacity to the flare system.

Compressors compress gas into treatment systems where the gases are cleaned or scrubbed before being used in refinery boilers and heaters. When the gases exceed the capacity of the compressors, or when the vent gases are inappropriate to be used in fuels, the vent gases are released through the water seal and burned in the flare. These flares, the water seals, the

compressor capacities and the gas treatment scrubbing system and also the ability to use the treated fuel are all important components to reducing emissions from flaring of vent gases.

The District's Flare Control Rule Regulation 12, Rule 12: prohibits flaring unless the flaring is caused by an emergency or is consistent with a refinery's Flare Minimization Plan (FMP). Refineries must notify the District when the volume of vent gas flared at the refinery exceeds 500,000 cubic feet. Causal analysis is conducted on flaring events that exceed 500,000, or when emissions have exceeded 500 pounds of sulfur dioxide emissions. Refineries must also monitor their water seals at the flares to ensure that there are no vent gases going to the flare that are undetected.

The rule requires that each of the refineries prepare and submit a FMP. The plan must contain basic design information including process flow diagrams of the refinery flare systems, descriptions of refinery compressor operations, descriptions of refinery fuel gas balance and flare gas recovery system base loads. Annual updates will ensure that new technologies and practices will be implemented and identified in a process of continuous improvement.

The next steps include holding public informational meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide additional information to help the public comment on these complex documents. Most documents are more than 100 pages and the Air District hopes to provide information to make the process more meaningful to the public. The public comment period will end on May 31, 2007. A plan will only be approved if the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) determines that all feasible flaring prevention measures have been considered and incorporated. The schedule includes 5 upcoming meetings.

There was extensive discussion on this item with regard to prevention measures. The Committee had questions with regard to the FMP process and requested that staff provide a report at a future meeting.

Committee Action: Director Gioia requested that data for the refineries be reported by facility, and that the information include before and after, in terms of volume, and percentage reductions and the history prior to 2004 to the extent the Air District has data. In addition, staff will provide a thorough explanation of each facility, their challenges and how others were able to move faster.

Speakers: The following individuals spoke on this agenda item:

Jen Ahlskog
ConocoPhillips
1380 San Pablo Avenue
Rodeo, CA 94572

Denny Larson
National Refinery Reform Campaign
739 Cortland
San Francisco, CA 94110

Dennis Bolt
WSPA
785 Oak Grove Rd, #306
Concord, CA 94518

Angelina Martinez
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
115 Worthing
Hercules, CA 94547

Rose Marie Castro
15 Collins Ct.
Richmond, CA 94801

Carla M. Perez
CBE
1440 Broadway #701

Oakland, CA 94612

Walt Gill
Chevron
841 Chevron Way
Richmond, CA 94802

Marleen Quint
Patient Research Adv.
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

Ruth Gilmore
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
Richmond, CA 94801

Richard Quiros
Chevron
841 Chevron Way
Richmond, CA 94802

Greg Karras
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
1440 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Delphine Smith
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
1440 Broadway, Ste. 701
Oakland, CA 94621

Jessica Tovar
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
Oakland, CA 94612

5. **Proposed Amendments to Regulation 9, Rule 6: Nitrogen Oxides from Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters, and Regulation 9, Rule 7: Nitrogen Oxides and Carbon Monoxide Emissions from Industrial, Institutional and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators and Process Heaters:** Chairperson Haggerty recommended moving Agenda Item 5 to a future meeting.
6. **Committee Member Comments/Other Business:** Director Torliatt stated that her understanding is that the refineries are producing so much gas, that they do not have the capacity to handle the amount of flares or the gases produced to handle it, e.g., not enough compressors. She asked what needs to be built in order to reduce flaring.

Director Ross thanked Mr. Broadbent and staff for their continued efforts on this issue.
7. **Time and Place of Next Meeting:** 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 15, 2007 at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

/s/ Vanessa Johnson
Vanessa Johnson
Acting Clerk of the Boards