



South Coast Air Quality Management District's

Notice of Public Consultation Meeting

PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 1173 – CONTROL OF VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND LEAKS AND RELEASES FROM COMPONENTS AT PETROLEUM FACILITIES AND CHEMICAL PLANTS



Wednesday, January 7, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

AQMD Headquarters

21865 Copley Drive

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Conference Room CC2

Purpose of the Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has scheduled a public consultation meeting to solicit information and suggestions from the public on **Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1173 – Control of Volatile Organic Compound Leaks and Releases from Components at Petroleum Facilities and Chemical Plants**. This public consultation meeting will allow comments and discussion of PAR 1173 with all public members including potentially impacted stakeholders and other interested parties. PAR 1173 will be considered for adoption by the AQMD Governing Board at a public hearing tentatively scheduled for **February 6, 2009**.

Air Quality Objective

The change in this amendment is an administrative correction with no impact on air quality or emission limitations.

Background on Rule 1173

Currently, Rule 1173 controls liquid and gaseous VOC leaks from components, such as valves, fittings, pumps, compressors, pressure relief devices, hatches, meters, diaphragms, and sight-

glasses at refineries, chemical plants, oil and gas production sites, natural gas processing plants, and pipeline transfer stations. The rule also requires refineries and chemical plants to monitor and report releases from atmospheric pressure relief devices (PRDs). During the last rule amendment on June 1, 2007, new paragraphs were added to subdivision (h) that required renumbering of the paragraphs, but the references to those paragraphs were inadvertently left unchanged.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendment includes the following:

- Administrative rule amendment to clarify that paragraph (1)(5) – Exemption, was inadvertently left unchanged from a previous amendment and referenced paragraphs (h)(4) and (h)(5) as opposed to paragraphs (h)(6) and (h)(7).

California Environmental Quality Act

Staff has reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule 1173 - Control Of Volatile Organic Compound Leaks and Releases From Components at Petroleum Facilities and Chemical Plants, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15002(k)(1) -

Three Step Process, and has determined that the proposed amendments are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption. The proposed amendments are covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which may have a significant effect on the environment. Staff has reviewed the proposed amendments and has determined that they are primarily administrative in nature. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed amendments will have a significant impact on air quality or other environmental areas and, therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA. If approved by the Governing Board, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be prepared for the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15062 – Notice of Exemption, and mailed to the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Comments and suggestions regarding the CEQA Analysis for PAR 1173 should be directed to:

Barbara Radlein
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2716
Email: bradlein@aqmd.gov

Submission of Documents or Comments

The public is requested to send documents, studies, data, reports, comments and any other information relevant to PAR 1173 by Friday, **January 9, 2009** to:

Ken Ellis
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2457
Email: kellis@aqmd.gov

Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents are available on the AQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/proposed.html> prior to the consultation meeting:

- PAR 1173
- Draft Preliminary Board Letter

Copies of the above documents may also be obtained from:

Ms. Lourdes Cordova Martinez
Public Information Center
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2039
Email: lcmartinez@aqmd.gov