



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

April 27, 2006

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER / APCO
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC WORKSHOP - DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 9, RULE 9: NITROGEN OXIDES FROM STATIONARY GAS TURBINES**

The staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will conduct a public workshop to review and discuss possible amendments to Regulation 9, Rule 9: Nitrogen Oxides from Stationary Gas Turbines from **1:00 – 3:00 PM on Wednesday, May 31, 2006** in the 7th Floor Board of Directors meeting room at the District office located at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco.

BACKGROUND:

The Bay Area is not yet in attainment of the State ozone standards, so the region must implement all feasible measures to reduce the pollutants that form ozone, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and reactive organic gases. The District's 2005 Ozone Strategy includes consideration of amendments to Regulation 9, Rule 9: Nitrogen Oxides from Stationary Gas Turbines. Regulation 9, Rule 9 was adopted in 1993, and amended in 1994. Since 1994 there have been improvements in the cost and application of turbine emission control devices. The San Joaquin Valley Air District has made the most recent update to its stationary gas turbine rule, and it currently is the most stringent rule in California.

Current NO_x emission limits in the Bay Area are 9 ppm, 15 ppm or 42 ppm depending on the size of the gas turbine and its emission control device (with slightly higher limits for low-usage turbines and those that do not burn natural gas). Additional NO_x reductions can be achieved by taking advantage of improvements in Dry Low NO_x combustion technology. This technology controls combustion temperatures and reduces NO_x formation. Improvements have also been made in the performance of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) catalysts that convert NO_x from the gas turbine back into nitrogen. Additional NO_x reductions can be achieved by requiring large turbines that are not equipped with SCR systems to be retrofitted with such systems.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

This workshop will review the feasibility of amending Regulation 9, Rule 9 to incorporate more stringent NOx limits.

The potential amendments would:

- Reduce NOx emissions standards from 15 ppm or 9 ppm to 5 ppm for large (greater than 10 MW) gas turbines fired on gaseous fuels. This amendment would likely require SCR on all such turbines.
- Reduce NOx emissions standards for medium sized (3 MW to 10 MW) gas turbines fired on natural gas from 42 ppm to 25 ppm or 35 ppm, depending on whether Dry Low NOx Combustion Technology is commercially available for the specific turbine. These emissions levels would be achievable without the need to retrofit turbines with SCR.
- Reduce NOx emissions standards for large (greater than 10 MW) low usage (less than 877 hours per year) gas turbines fired on natural gas from 42 ppm to 25 ppm.
- Require compliance with the new standards no later than June 30, 2008.
- Specify the averaging period over which compliance with the emission standards will be determined. The regulation currently does not specify the averaging period, and different sources have been subject to different averaging periods under various permit conditions and enforcement practices.
- Establish more restrictive NOx limits for specific gas turbines if Dry Low NOx combustion technology is developed for these turbines in the future.
- Further limit the exemption currently available for gas turbines during inspection and maintenance periods.
- Make minor clarifying changes to the rules such as addition of definitions and deletion of obsolete references.

For copies of the draft amendments to Regulation 9, Rule 9 that the District is considering, and a copy of the workshop report, see <http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/workshops.htm>. For questions or comments on the potential amendments, please contact Guy A. Gimlen, Air Quality Engineer, at (415) 749-4734 or via e-mail at ggimlen@baaqmd.gov.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

**MUNI -- #47 AND 49 NORTH AND SOUTH ON VAN NESS AVENUE
#38 EAST AND WEST ON GEARY BOULEVARD/O'FARRELL STREET
BART -- CIVIC CENTER STATION 8TH AND MARKET STREETS**

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the District.