

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Risk Screening Assessment, A# 6824
San Pablo Police Department, P# 10889
January 21, 2003

This document describes the basis for the health risk screening assessment prepared for San Pablo Police Department, 13880 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo, California. This facility wishes to operate a new emergency standby generator diesel engine. In order to do this, the facility must get a permit from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The BAAQMD, as a routine part of the evaluation of a permit application, prepared this screening risk assessment.

Benzene, a toxic air contaminant and a carcinogen, will be emitted during the operation of the gas dispensing facility (GDF). BAAQMD staff evaluates the possible impact of the benzene emissions that will occur during routine operation of the GDF. The benzene emission impact is expressed in terms of the increased risk of contracting cancer by individuals who live or work near the GDF.

The estimated increase in benzene emissions that can be expected from this source are 4.62 pounds per year for the allowable 682,350 gallons per year. Ambient air concentrations of benzene were predicted using the ISCST3 air dispersion computer model. This model uses information about the facility and the emission rates of toxic air contaminants to estimate what concentrations would be expected in the air at various locations around the site. The estimated concentrations of benzene are used to calculate the possible cancer risk that might be expected to arise from this exposure.

The potential cancer risk was calculated using standard risk assessment methodology. For residents, they include the assumptions that exposures are continuous for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for 70-years. For students the assumptions include higher breathing rates for children and that exposures are for 36 weeks per year over a 9-year period. The cancer risk is based on the "best estimates" of plausible cancer potencies as determined by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The actual cancer risk, which cannot be determined, may approach zero. This type of analysis is considered to be health-protective.

The potential for noncancer health effects is evaluated by comparing the long-term exposure level to a Reference Exposure Level (REL). A REL is a concentration level or dose at or below which no adverse health effects are anticipated. RELs are designed to protect the most sensitive individuals in the population. Comparisons to RELs are made by determining the hazard index, which is the ratio of the estimated exposure level to the REL.

The proposed operation would result in an increased maximum cancer risk of 10 chances in a million and a hazard index of 0.0089 for maximally exposed residences near the facility. For the students who attend St. Paul Catholic School and Helms Middle School, the increased maximum cancer risk is 0.0064 chances in a million and the hazard index is 0.0000682. These health risk values, presented in the table below, meet the criteria for acceptable levels established in the BAAQMD's Risk Management Policy.

Health Risk Results		
Receptor	Increased Maximum Cancer Risk	Hazard Index
Residential	10.0 chances in a million	0.0089
Industrial	1.5 chances in a million	0.0089
Helms Middle School	0.0064 chances in a million	0.0000682
St. Paul Catholic School	0.0064 chances in a million	0.0000682

School address:

St. Paul Catholic School
 1825 Church Lane
 San Pablo, CA 94806-3705

Helms Middle school
 2500 Road 20
 San Pablo, CA 94806-3705