

Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Risk Screening Assessment, A# 010690  
USDA Agricultural Research Service, P# 1855  
October 4, 2004

This document describes the basis for the health risk screening assessment prepared for the USDA Agricultural Research Service 800 Buchanan Street, Berkeley, CA. 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.

Particulates from diesel engine exhaust, a toxic air contaminant and a carcinogen, will be emitted during the operation of the engine. BAAQMD staff evaluates the possible impact of the diesel exhaust particulate emissions that will occur during routine operation of the diesel engine. The diesel exhaust particulate impact is expressed in terms of the increased risk of contracting cancer by individuals who live or work near the proposed engine.

The estimated increase in diesel exhaust particulate emissions that can be expected from this source are 3.42 pounds per year. Ambient air concentrations of diesel exhaust particulate 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 diesel exhaust particulate are used to calculate the possible cancer and noncancer health 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 180 school days 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 at or below which no adverse health effects are anticipated. RELs are designed to protect sensitive individuals within 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 2.6 chances in a million and a hazard index of 0.002 for residences near the facility. For the students who attend Ocean View Elementary School or MacGregor High School, the increased maximum cancer risk is 4.6 chances in a million and the hazard index is 0.017. 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	2.6 chances in a million	0.002
Ocean View Elementary School	4.6 chances in a million	0.017
MacGregor High School	4.6 chances in a million	0.017

School address: Ocean View Elementary / MacGregor High  
1000 Jackson Street  
Albany, CA. 94706