



NEWS

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Air District Seeks Abatement Order Against Tesoro Refinery

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has filed a request for a Conditional Order of Abatement against the Tesoro Refinery in Martinez. The refinery had experienced a series of breakdowns from a boiler in recent months that has resulted in coke dust emissions and violations of Air District regulations. In the request for the Conditional Order of Abatement, the Air District is asking the Hearing Board to require Tesoro to upgrade its equipment to prevent a reoccurrence of the emissions.

"The Order the District is seeking would require Tesoro to upgrade its pollution control equipment to ensure that there is adequate backup capacity in the event that another boiler incident occurs," said the Air District's Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "Continuing to operate without the required upgrades is no longer an option. Tesoro can prevent future violations with an improved backup system even if unforeseen mechanical problems arise. We need to minimize the emissions from the refinery and protect the health of the community around the facility," Broadbent said.

If the Hearing Board decides to issue the Conditional Order, Tesoro will have to make the necessary improvements as directed within a given period of time. Violations of Hearing Board orders are punishable by civil penalties of up to \$25,000 a day.

The Hearing Board is an independent quasi-judicial panel that hears requests for Orders of Abatement from the Air District against facilities that have repeated, uncorrected violations of Air District regulations. The Hearing Board also hears applications for variances from Air District regulations which, if granted, are applicable for a finite period of time. Copies of the filed Order can be obtained by contacting the Public Information and Outreach division at 415 749-4900.

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