



# NEWS

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## **Air District to Strengthen Refinery Permits**

San Francisco, CA – March 17, 2005 - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has been directed by the US EPA to reexamine certain provisions of the Title V operating permits issued by the Air District to the Bay Area's five refineries. The Air District will reexamine the issues and expects to respond to EPA within 90 days, as required by the Clean Air Act.

"We are pleased that the EPA agrees with the Air District's overall analysis of the complex Title V refinery permits," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's Executive Officer. "EPA has pointed out areas where verification and monitoring could be improved, and we will be working with EPA to address their concerns. We want to reassure the public that the Air District has in place and vigorously enforces the most stringent emissions standards at refineries to protect public health," Broadbent said.

EPA was asked to look at 218 issues in the Title V permits by three environmental and labor organizations. Of these, EPA denied a reexamination of 162 issues and wants the Air District to address the 56 remaining issues. Cumulatively there are over 65,000 conditions in the refinery permits.

One of the key areas that EPA wants reexamined involves flares at refineries. The Air District is in the process of developing a flare control rule which will address most of EPA's concerns. When adopted by the Air District's Board of Directors, the rule will become the first of its kind in the nation and will result in permanent emission reductions from flaring at refineries.

Title V is part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, and requires operating permits for all major air pollution emitting facilities.

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