



NEWS

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Air District to resubmit Lehigh permit renewal

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air District has withdrawn the proposed renewal Title V Permit for Lehigh Southwest Cement Company in Cupertino and will resubmit it in order to incorporate more protective standards to be issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in spring of this year.

"The Air District has withdrawn the Lehigh permit renewal in order to incorporate the EPA's more stringent standards," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "These standards will significantly reduce emissions of mercury and other air pollutants which will protect the health of residents in the local community."

The Lehigh Southwest Cement Company is required to obtain operating permits under Title V of the 1990 Clean Air Act.

In consideration of public comments collected at a series of meetings and workshops, the Air District has elected to hold off issuing the permit in order to incorporate the updated National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, or NESHAP, which are currently being revised by the U.S. EPA. These revised standards, which include stricter requirements for mercury, hydrochloric acid and total hydrocarbons, among other pollutant categories, will be incorporated into the federal Title V permit requirements. The updated NESHAP are expected to be finalized by the EPA this spring.

A Title V Permit is a compilation of all applicable local, state and federal air quality requirements including emissions limits and standards, monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting requirements.

The initial Title V permit for Lehigh Southwest Cement Company was issued on November 5, 2003. Last fall the Air District submitted a draft Title V permit renewal to the U.S. EPA for review. The draft permit renewal was withdrawn by the Air District on January 5.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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