



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District seeks public input on Lehigh permit renewal

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is seeking written public comment on the proposed Title V Permit renewal for Lehigh Southwest Cement Company, which includes a series of new, up-to-date measures to protect public health.

The proposed Lehigh permit incorporates new requirements that were set forth under recent amendments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, or NESHAPs. These amendments, which were adopted in September 2010, set much stricter standards for emissions of mercury and other toxic pollutants from cement plants.

"The incorporation of more stringent standards into this proposed permit renewal will significantly reduce emissions of mercury and other air pollutants," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The proposed permit would make a positive improvement in local air quality."

Additional measures in the proposed Lehigh Title V permit include a plan to better control fugitive dust emissions, requirements for improved on-site monitoring, and new control technologies that reduce mercury and hydrochloric acid emissions from the cement kiln by at least 25 percent in advance of the 2013 NESHAP deadline. Lehigh will also modify or replace the existing kiln dust collector and combine the multiple exhaust stacks into a single stack in order to comply with the NESHAP standards.

The proposed permit takes into account comments received from the public and EPA during a period when the Lehigh Title V permit renewal was initially noticed for comment in 2009. This first proposed permit renewal was withdrawn in January 2010, pending the EPA NESHAPs amendments.

In response to community concerns, the Air District has implemented several air monitoring projects in adjacent neighborhoods, including a comprehensive air quality monitoring station at nearby Monta Vista Park which will take samples for at least a year. To date, concentrations of pollutants are similar to those found throughout the Bay Area.

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The public can provide written input to the Air District by submitting comments to Ms. Thu Bui, BAAQMD, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109, or sending an email to tbui@baaqmd.gov. **Written comments must be received by March 25, 2011.**

Lehigh Southwest Cement Company is a major facility in Cupertino that is required to obtain an operating permit under the Title V of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and the Air District's Regulation 2, Rule 6 - Major Facility Review.

A Title V Permit is a compilation of all existing 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.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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