



NEWS

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Air District Board approves refinery rule amendments

Changes will facilitate upgrading and replacement of older boilers, generators and heaters

SAN FRANCISCO - Today the Air District's Board of Directors voted to approve a series of air quality rule amendments that are intended to streamline the replacement of pre-1994 boilers, steam generators and heaters at petroleum refineries in order to further reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Refinery heaters make steam or heat fluids to the necessary operational temperatures. Heaters made before 1994 emit pollutants at a much higher rate than current standards for new boilers.

"These rule amendments will facilitate refinery upgrades that can reduce air pollution in the region," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "They also standardize monitoring requirements in a way that makes it easier for our inspectors to enforce this rule consistently and protect public health in neighborhoods near these facilities."

These amendments to Regulation 9, Rule 10 will create a new, alternative standard for oxides of nitrogen, or NOx, that applies to pre-1994 heaters. The amendments also require continuous emissions monitoring systems on 95 percent of the NOx emissions from older heaters, and will establish additional reporting requirements to protect public health.

The Air District conducted a public workshop on these amendments in 2012. Stakeholder input was included in a second draft published in May 2013, and revisions were incorporated in the final amendments adopted today.

A copy of the staff report describing the proposed amendments is available at:
http://www.baaqmd.gov/~media/Files/Planning%20and%20Research/Public%20Hearings/2013/RG0910_StfRpt_090913.ashx?la=en.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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