



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2014

CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900

Air District settles case with Tesoro *Refinery to pay \$472,000 for air quality violations*

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced a recent agreement with Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company to pay a \$472,000 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers 35 notices of violation that the Air District issued to Tesoro for incidents that occurred between 2009 and 2011.

“Heavy industrial facilities, like refineries, must take responsibility for all aspects of their processes as the Air District and the public have no tolerance for pollution problems,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This settlement will ensure Tesoro takes responsibility for all systems within its refining process to ensure they do not jeopardize air quality and comply with Air District regulations.”

Nine of the violations were related to two power failures in late 2010 that shut down the refinery and caused significant visible emissions and triggered alarms on the Community Warning System in Contra Costa County. During the incident, a precautionary “shelter in place” order was called by the county.

Two of the violations were issued after a fire broke out while Tesoro was performing maintenance on one of its tanks without using proper precautionary measures to handle the hazardous material stored in the tank.

The violations also include a series of source test failures at several of Tesoro’s boilers showing excess carbon monoxide and ammonia emissions; several incidences of ground level monitors near Tesoro exceeding the regulatory standard for hydrogen sulfide emissions; a leak in the oil/water separator system; two inaccurate continuous emissions monitors; and several late reports.

Tesoro has made improvements and upgrades to their electrical and power delivery systems. Operational procedures have been established to ensure compliance with air quality regulations.

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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