



NEWS

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Air District Board adopts two new refinery emission reduction rules *Emission reduction strategy on track to reach pollution reduction goals*

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors adopted two new regulations to further tighten air pollution controls on petroleum operations at Bay Area refineries.

Regulation 9, Rule 14 reduces sulfur dioxide emissions from the largest Bay Area source. Regulation 12, Rule 15 is a first-of-its-kind requirement that will better enable the Air District to track refinery emissions as changes are made at the facilities while providing more information to the public.

The rules are part of a suite of stepped up refinery-focused rules initiated in 2012.

“Today’s action by the Board of Directors strikes an important balance between clean air and a better informed public,” said Jack Broadbent executive officer of the Air District. “These two landmark rules will improve air quality in our neighborhoods and provide the Air District and the community with better information for future new efforts to protect public health.”

In 2015, the Air District board adopted refinery controls which targeted reductions of pollution from equipment leaks, a reduction of toxic compounds and methane and a reduction in particulate emissions from catalytic cracking units. The two rules adopted today, along with rules passed in 2015, are projected to account for 15 percent of reductions in refinery air pollution from current levels. More regulations are being developed.

The new regulations include:

- The Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking rule (Reg.12, Rule 15) will mandate improved reporting of emissions inventories, track crude slate changes and improve real-time monitoring of emissions at refinery fence-lines in order to protect local communities.
- The Petroleum Coke Calcining Operations rule (Reg. 9, Rule 14) will reduce emissions from coke calcining, which converts solids left over from the refining process into feedstocks uses to make other products like steel and paint.

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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