

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CEQA LEAD AGENCY

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

PROJECT TITLE AND PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER

ConAgra Foods Plant Modernization and Expansion Project (Application #20649)

PROJECT LOCATION

ConAgra Foods
2201 E. 7th Street
Oakland, California 94606

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is the ConAgra Foods Plant Modernization and Expansion Project (BAAQMD Permit Application #20649). ConAgra Foods operates a flour milling facility on a 12.8-acre site located along the Oakland Estuary at the corner of East 7th Street and Kennedy Street. The facility has been in continuous operation milling flour since 1965, and consists of 101,000 square feet of buildings including 71,000 square feet for manufacturing and 30,000 square feet for storage. The primary structures on the site include a series of interconnected silos capable of storing up to 1,000,000 bushels of raw grains and an adjacent mill building containing the A-Mill and the B-Mill. The buildings are served by an expansive parking area that supports in-coming and out-going rail cars, truck loading of processed flour products, truck parking, and a modular office complex for plant management.

ConAgra has submitted a permit application to the District to replace much of the process equipment and baghouse filters in the existing A-Mill milling operation with new equipment and filters. Additionally, the A-Mill cleaning operation will include an additional cleaning device and two additional filters. These upgrades and equipment replacements will allow ConAgra to increase daily throughput from 300 tons to 500 tons per day from the A-Mill operation. As part of the project, ConAgra is upgrading the fleet of diesel trucks that transport processed flour products to downstream vendors in order to reduce diesel emissions.

The facility currently has a Synthetic Minor Operating Permit. A Synthetic Minor Facility is a facility which, by imposition of enforceable permit conditions, has its potential to emit limited to below the threshold levels for a major facility as defined by Section 2-6-212 and is not otherwise required to apply for a major facility review permit under Regulation 2, Rule 6. A Synthetic Minor Operating Permit is subject to all the provisions of District Regulations 1, 2, and 3, including, but not limited to, permitting, compliance, and fee requirements. The proposed facility PM10 emissions will continue to be less than the Synthetic Minor threshold.

Proposed Modifications to Permitted Operations

The A-Mill modernization would upgrade and expand the original 300 ton/day flour milling unit into a modern 500 ton/day flour milling unit using the latest flour milling technology. The new equipment would replace existing equipment within the existing structures at the site, and would result in a total mill capacity increase from the current 500 tons/day to 700 tons/day (a 40 percent increase). Benefits include improving milling yield at the A-Mill by 2.5

percent, and eliminating the need to ship in flour from other locations for distribution to customers in the San Francisco Bay Area (approximately 60 percent of the facility's customers and 90 percent of its bulk flour business are within a 25-mile radius of the facility).

DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, *et. seq.*), the District is the Lead Agency for the described project. The District has prepared an Initial Study, and, on the basis of the study, has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

REVIEW PERIOD

Interested persons are invited to send written comments on the Negative Declaration or Initial Study to Jimmy Cheng, Air Quality Engineer II, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California, 94109 or to jcheng@baaqmd.gov. Such comments must be received by 5:00 p.m, on July 20, 2011.