Glossary of Terms

**Acute** – Something that takes place over a short period of time, typically one hour

**Age Sensitivity Factors (ASF)** – Adjustment calculations for cancer risk used in health risk assessments that account for children’s increased sensitivity to air toxics

**Best Available Control Technology (BACT)** – Equipment, processes, or devices that limit or reduce the amount of air pollutants that are emitted in the air by sources

**Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (TBACT)** – For sources emitting toxic air contaminants (TAC), the most effective emissions controls that either have been used in practice or are technically possible.

**Breathing Rate** – The amount of air a person breathes in over a specified time period

**Cancer Potency Factor (CPF)** – A calculation that estimates the likelihood of developing cancer from exposure to a cancer-causing or a potentially cancer-causing substance

**Cancer Risk** – An estimate of the likelihood that an individual will develop cancer

**Carcinogen** – A substance that may cause cancer

**Chronic** – Something that takes place over a long period of time

**Dose** – The amount of substance that enters the body over a given exposure duration

**Exposure Duration** – The amount of time a person is exposed to a toxic air contaminant

**Exposure Pathway** – How a substance enters the body (e.g. breathing, eating, drinking, or touching skin)

**Fraction of Time at Home (FAH)** – The percentage or amount of time a person is home throughout the day.

**Hazard Index (HI)** – An estimate of the likelihood that an individual will develop non-cancer health effects

**Health Effect** – A change in human body function or cell structure that may cause or contribute to health problems ranging from temporary minor conditions, such as skin irritation, to permanent injury, serious disease, or death

**Health Risk** – The potential for health effects in humans resulting from exposure to toxic air contaminants. Types of health risks include cancer risk and non-cancer impacts

**Health Risk Assessment (HRA)** – An estimate of the increased chance of negative health impacts for individuals that may be exposed to toxic air contaminants, based on the best scientific information available

**Modified Source** – Any air pollution source that undergoes a physical change, a change in the method of operation, or an increase in throughput that results in emission increases

**Multi-Pathway TAC** – A toxic air contaminant (TAC) that enters the body through breathing and at least one other pathway (eating, drinking, or touching skin) and that has health impacts resulting from these other exposure pathways

**New Source** – Any source of emissions that is proposed for construction or operation, including a replacement of an existing source or a relocation of an existing source to a different facility

**Non-cancer Impact** – Any negative health effect other than cancer

**Non-carcinogen** – A substance that may cause health effects other than cancer
**New Source Review (NSR)** – An evaluation of the air pollution emissions, potential health effects, and compliance with regulatory requirements for new or modified sources that is conducted before the project is built.

**Project** – A group of one or more new or modified sources that are part of a proposed construction at a single facility and that are typically contained within a permit application or a group of related permit applications.

**Project Risk** – The total health risk resulting from a project.

**Reference Exposure Level (REL)** – The amount of air pollution that is considered safe for a specific period of exposure time.

**Source** – Any article, machine, equipment, or operation that produces or emits air pollutants.

**Source Risk** – The health risk resulting from a new source, a modified source, or an individual new or modified operation.

**Spatial Averaging** – A calculation used in health risk assessments, which is an average of the predicted air concentrations within a small area, and that is intended to represent typical human behavior throughout the length of exposure under evaluation.

**Stationary Source** – A fixed, non-mobile producer of pollution, usually at industrial or commercial facilities.

**Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC)** – Air pollutants that may cause or contribute to negative health impacts (adverse health effects).

**Trigger Levels** – Air District-derived emission rate thresholds for a project at which an Air District Health Risk Assessment is required.

**Toxicity Weighting Factors** – Air District-derived factors for each toxic air contaminant that indicate that relative toxicity of the compound for a given type of health risk (cancer risk, chronic non-cancer impact, or acute non-cancer impact).