



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Request for Comments

September 4, 2018

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER / APCO
SUBJECT: **Request for Comments – AB 617 Expedited Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) Implementation Schedule, Initial Staff Report, and Rule Development Project Scopes**

The staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (“Air District”) is requesting comments on an Initial Staff Report regarding the AB 617 Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule. The initial staff report summarizes the Air District’s approach to address Assembly Bill 617 requirements regarding Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) implementation at industrial facilities subject to California Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Cap-and-Trade requirements. In addition to the Initial Staff Report, the Air District has prepared a series of project scope papers, covering each of the six BARCT rule development projects included in the schedule.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) directs the state, in consultation with local air districts, to select communities that have a “high cumulative exposure burden” to air pollution. Once selected, these communities will work with local air districts on community emission reduction programs and/or community monitoring campaigns. The bill also requires expedited implementation of best available retrofit control technology at industrial Cap-and-Trade facilities.

Expedited BARCT Implementation Requirements

AB 617 requires air districts to review the emissions control technology installed on pollution sources located at industrial facilities subject to the Cap-and-Trade program. The Air District has identified 19 of these industrial facilities, which encompass over 1,800 sources. To address facilities that do not have Best Available Retrofit Control Technologies in place, each air district must adopt an Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule before the end of 2018. The Air District has identified source categories where BARCT is not in place and has created a list of six rule development projects to consider for implementation. These projects address emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), reactive organic gases (ROG), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and include industrial sources such as organic liquid storage tanks, petroleum wastewater treating, Portland cement manufacturing, refinery fluid catalytic crackers and CO boilers, refinery heavy liquid leaks, and petroleum coke calcining.

The Air District is publishing an Initial Staff Report for the Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule and a set of rule development project scope papers for the individual rule development projects. In addition, in anticipation of producing an Environmental Impact Report to satisfy CEQA requirements, the Air District has published a Notice of Preparation / Initial Study (NOP/IS) for the Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

A Request for Comments is the next step in the Air District's public engagement process. Staff requests comments and questions on the Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule, the Initial Staff Report, and rule development project scopes. Following this Request for Comments and close of the public comment period, staff will assess the need for changes to the Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule. Staff may consider hosting further meetings or may proceed to a public hearing before the Air District's Board of Directors.

For copies of the Initial Staff Report and related materials, please visit our website at www.baaqmd.gov/ab617barct. For questions or comments on the Initial Staff Report, please contact David Joe at (415) 749-8623 or djoe@baaqmd.gov. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the Expedited BARCT Implementation Schedule, Initial Staff Report, and/or rule development project scopes. The deadline to submit comments on these materials is Friday, October 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.