



NEWS

For Immediate Release
December 22, 2005

Contact: Jack M. Colbourn: 415.749.5192

Bay Area Air District Reaches Settlement Agreement with Pacific Steel Casting of Berkeley

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) on December 20, 2005 reached a settlement with Pacific Steel Casting (PSC) in an important step in resolving ongoing issues related to the facility located in Berkeley, CA. The settlement resolves a number of air quality problems and permit violations, and requires odor control measures and an odor management plan for the facility.

“This settlement agreement is significant and good for the community because it includes more than just civil monetary penalties – the company has agreed to reconfigure part of the facility and install state-of-the-art abatement equipment specially designed for it, that is expected to be a very significant investment by the company,” said Jack P. Broadbent, the Air District’s Executive Officer. “This should reduce or eliminate air quality problems now and for the future.”

PSC also will develop an odor management plan approved by the Air District for the entire facility. The plan will assure appropriate management practices to control odorous emissions, and that employees receive regular training.

“The Air District will continue to consider the community’s concerns as we work to protect public health and the environment,” said Broadbent. PSC has operated in west Berkeley since the 1930s, in a neighborhood that now includes residences as well as industrial and commercial activities.

This year, the Air District issued nine notices of violation (NOVs) for odor emissions, opacity, and permit violations. In addition to resolving NOVs issued to the company for alleged public nuisance odors since March 2005, the settlement agreement also addresses existing and anticipated permit violations. PSC has agreed to undertake reporting and complete permit modifications to control precursor organic compound emissions (POCs).

The company will install a carbon adsorption abatement system to abate odorous emissions from Plant 3, to be operational by October 15, 2006. PSC also will pay combined penalties of \$17,500 within 30 days of the settlement.

In the interim period until the new abatement equipment is operating, PSC agrees to pay an immediate penalty of \$3,000 for any day that the Air District confirms five odor complaints. This measure assures that PSC will move swiftly and attentively to complete the work.

Pacific Steel Casting has been very cooperative and responsive in working with the Air District to resolve all these issues, according to Broadbent.

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