



NEWS

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Air District Board approves amendments to permit regulations *Standards tightened for fine particle and greenhouse gas emissions*

SAN FRANCISCO - Today the Air District's Board of Directors approved a series of air quality rule amendments that strengthen the agency's core air permitting regulations, which will reduce emissions and better protect public health.

The rule amendments include new provisions that will further reduce emissions of fine particles and greenhouse gases from industrial air pollution sources such as refineries, power plants, and other large commercial facilities.

"Particulate matter is our biggest public health threat in the Bay Area, and greenhouse gas emissions are our largest environmental threat," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "These upgrades will ensure that our permit program stays ahead of the curve in improving air quality and protecting public health."

The amendments to the Air District's Regulation 2, Rules 1, 2, 4 and 6 will affect the agency's New Source Review and Title V permitting programs.

New Source Review is a program that requires industry to obtain an Air District permit before constructing a new facility or changing an existing facility. In some cases it will be triggered by as little as 10 lbs. of pollution per day. *Title V* is an operating permit program that collects all federal, state, and local air quality requirements into a single permit to provide greater transparency and compliance. Typically it applies to facilities that have pollution output of 100 tons or more per year.

For the New Source Review program, these amendments will:

- Add provisions to address fine particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions
- Require that applicants demonstrate through air quality modeling that they will not cause or contribute to exceedances of national air quality standards
- Expand public notice and comment requirements
- Reorganize the permitting regulations for easier understanding
- Make other revisions to align the regulations with new federal and state requirements

For the Title V program, these amendments will:

- Add provisions to address greenhouse gas emissions
- Reorganize the permitting regulations for easier understanding
- Make other revisions to align the regulations with new federal and state requirements

The rule amendments addressing PM2.5 for New Source Review permitting are also required actions for fulfilling federal planning requirements.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baagmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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