



NEWS

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Air District settles case with Chevron USA Inc.

Refinery to pay \$181,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that Chevron USA Inc. has agreed to pay \$181,000 to settle air quality violations at its refinery in Richmond.

The settlement covers 26 Notices of Violation issued for air quality violations at the Richmond Oil Refinery during 2013 and 2014. The violations include failures to catalogue and monitor equipment for fugitive emissions leaks, excess sulfur compounds in fuel gas, excess carbon monoxide emissions from furnace operations, failure to properly depressurize process vessels, and public nuisance complaints due to smoke from flaring.

“Refineries in the Bay Area are subject to the most stringent regulations in the nation to protect public health,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “When refineries fall short, they not only receive financial penalties but must fix the issues that led to the violations to keep them from happening again.”

All the violations that led to this settlement have been corrected.

The Air District issues Notices of Violation when facilities violate a specific air quality regulation or rule. Violators are generally required to respond to the notice within ten days and submit a description of the actions they will take to correct the problem. These actions can include shutting down certain operations immediately, or changing operations or equipment to come into compliance.

All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that led to this settlement.

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

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