



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District strengthens refinery rule to reduce particulate emissions from fluidized catalytic cracking units

Reducing emissions from FCCUs is a critical step to control health-threatening air pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors today adopted amendments to Regulation 6, Rule 5: Particulate Emissions from Refinery Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units to further reduce particulate matter emissions from petroleum refineries. The rule is now the most health-protective and stringent regulation of its kind in the country.

The Air District adopted Rule 6-5 in 2015 to minimize particulate matter emissions from Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units, or FCCUs, which are the largest single source of particulate matter emissions at refineries and some of the largest individual sources of particulate matter in the Bay Area. The new amendments impose stricter FCCU control requirements to reduce health-threatening air pollution.

“Today’s vote by the Air District Board of Directors is a victory for every Bay Area resident, particularly those living in communities surrounding refineries as well as the refinery workers regularly exposed to harmful particulate pollution,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who is chair of the Air District Board of Directors. “We are committed to protecting the health of both refinery workers and neighbors and look forward to implementing this landmark protective rule with Chevron and PBF.”

“As scientific understanding continues to advance on the harmful health effects of particulate matter pollution, stricter controls are necessary to protect those who live and work in refinery communities,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “The Air District is committed to reducing air pollution exposure in impacted areas and these amendments are a necessary and critical step toward controlling the most significant air pollution health hazard in the Bay Area.”

The region-wide health benefits of attaining and maintaining compliance with ambient air standards for particulate matter are significant. Analysis by Air District staff found that PM2.5, which is emitted from FCCUs, is the primary health threat from air pollution in the Bay Area, particularly in terms of premature mortality. The Air District has calculated that for the million people most affected, exposure to particulate matter from the Chevron refinery in Richmond increases mortality by an average of up to 11.6 deaths per year and an average of up to 6.3 deaths per year from the PBF Martinez refinery.

Rule 6–5 applies to the four refineries in the Bay Area that have FCCUs. One of these refineries already controls emissions from their FCCU with a wet gas scrubber. The other refineries may decide to install wet gas scrubbing systems to comply with the new amendments. More information regarding Rule 6–5 is available at baaqmd.gov/reg6rule5.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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