



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District files Hearing Board case to end air quality violations at Chemtrade

Faulty monitoring led to underreported sulfur dioxide emissions at Richmond facility

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that it will bring an abatement order to correct air quality violations for faulty emissions monitoring at Chemtrade’s Richmond facility in front of the agency’s independent Hearing Board on April 12 at 1:30 p.m.

The air quality violations stem from an audit of the facility’s Continuous Emissions Monitoring System that led to the discovery of multiple violations and prompted an in-depth investigation. The Air District estimates that Chemtrade underreported sulfur dioxide emissions by an average of 64 tons annually but stayed below their annual permit limit. Compliance monitoring at the plant is done by a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System.

“Accurate emissions monitoring at industrial facilities is essential to ensure full compliance with the Air District’s stringent air quality regulations,” said Damian Breen, senior deputy executive officer of operations/enforcement at the Air District. “Chemtrade’s faulty monitoring led to underreported sulfur dioxide emissions in a community already overburdened by air pollution. We are requesting approval of an abatement order with our Hearing Board to quickly bring this facility into compliance to protect the health of residents in the local community.”

If the Hearing Board approves the abatement order, Chemtrade would be required to come into compliance by April 15, 2022, and conduct source testing by May 2, 2022.

Air District inspectors identified various hardware and software misconfiguration issues with Chemtrade’s Continuous Emissions Monitoring System that resulted in unreliable measurement and reporting of sulfur dioxide data at the facility. Chemtrade purchased the facility in 2014 and the Air District believes these issues predate the transfer of ownership.

Abatement orders and cases brought before the Hearing Board allow for transparency as facts and evidence are presented in an open forum while providing an opportunity for public involvement. Bringing Chemtrade before the Hearing Board is a further demonstration of the transparency promised to communities by the Air District.

The public is encouraged to participate and comment when the proposed abatement order is presented to the Hearing Board. The public can participate via Zoom on April 12 at 1:30 p.m. at

<https://bayareametro.zoom.us/j/83215693198> (webinar ID: 832 1569 3198). The public can also sign up for Hearing Board updates at <https://www.baaqmd.gov/contact-us/sign-up-for-information>.

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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