



Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Valero Benicia Refinery (Site # B2626)
3400 E. 2nd Street Benicia, CA. 94510**

March 23-24, 2019

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 11:50 am, Air District staff received a call from the Solano County Environmental Health Department regarding increased visible emissions from the Valero Refinery's (refinery) Flue Gas Scrubber Stack. The refinery, located in Benicia, California, had been experiencing an upset for over a week that had already resulted in four excessive visible emission and four public nuisance violations. Air District inspectors again responded to the refinery that afternoon to find the visible emissions from the Flue Gas Scrubber stack had worsened from the previous couple of days. Air District inspection staff continued to investigate and document two additional visible emission and two public nuisance violations over this weekend.

On Sunday, March 24, 2019 Air District inspectors, in conjunction with the Solano County Environmental Health Department and the Benicia Fire Department, continued to monitor emissions from the refinery's Flue Gas Scrubber. Air District inspectors placed fallout collection plates upwind and downwind of the refinery. The Air District also deployed a mobile monitoring van to Benicia to gather additional ground-level emissions data.

At approximately 10:15 am on Sunday, March 24, 2019 the Solano County Environmental Health Department and Air District were informed that Valero management had decided to shut the refinery down since refinery staff believed the nature of the excessive visible emissions from the Flue Gas Scrubber had changed. Refinery staff now suspected the contaminants in the process flue gas were no longer consistent with petroleum coke fines from the refinery upset earlier in the month and suspected the potential presence of oil. There was a significant improvement in the refinery's Flue Gas Scrubber stack by 10:20 am. Air District inspectors remained in the area around the refinery until about 2:30 pm on Sunday, March 24, 2019 to ensure there were no additional flaring visible emission violations associated with Valero's shut-down activities.

Air District inspectors will continue to monitor and investigate this incident to determine if there were any additional violations of Air District regulations.