



Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey, CA 93940

Air Toxics Annual Report

August 17, 2011

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I. PURPOSE

This report will describe the status of Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program and other toxic emissions related programs implemented within the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (District), which includes Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties.

II. AIR TOXICS “HOT SPOT” PROGRAM

A. BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 2588 (1987) was enacted in response to public concern about the release of toxic air contaminants into the atmosphere, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 44300, et seq. The District adopted Rules 1003 and 305 to administer this program. The purpose of the program is to have existing stationary sources reduce toxic emissions to levels that do not cause a significant health risk to people residing or working nearby.

B. THE PROCESS

Affected facilities must submit a proposed emissions inventory plan to the District that identifies the methods to be used for assessing the emissions of air toxics and reporting those emissions to the district. Once the District approves the plan, the facility must implement the plan and submit an emission inventory report. The District must review the data contained in the report and determine whether a risk assessment must be prepared.

The process by which the District identifies facilities for risk assessment preparation involves consideration of potency, toxicity, quantity of emissions, and proximity to neighboring work sites, and residences.

The health risk assessment is submitted to the District for review of emissions and dispersion modeling data. It is next forwarded to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for review of the risk assessment procedure.

Facilities identified as potentially causing a significant health risk must notify all exposed persons of the health risk assessment results, and prepare and present a risk reduction plan that will bring risk levels down to insignificant levels.

This process is streamlined for small business with similar characteristics such as: gas stations, dry cleaners, auto body shops, crematories, etc... due to the economic hardship individual reporting would cause. These facilities are surveyed to collect minimal data.

Then District staff prepares a streamlined emissions inventory and risk assessments. Public notice and risk reduction plans are still required if the health impact to nearby persons is significant.

C. CURRENT STATUS

Over the years, most facilities have worked to reduce toxic emissions for a variety of reasons. Now, facilities rarely need to update their emissions inventories and risk assessments. An updated toxic emissions inventory is only required when a facility significantly increases its toxic emissions or process rates, or if toxicity values or risk assessment procedures have changed since the last update.

III. CALIFORNIA AIR TOXICS MANDATES

The California Air Resources Board has been developing a number of Air Toxic Control Measures (ATCMs). Most of these require diesel engine emissions reductions. Many of the diesel engine measures have begun their phase in period.

Nearly all gasoline stations have now installed monitoring equipment to help owners more rapidly determine when nozzles, hoses, and pumps need to be repaired. This was required by the State's In-Station Diagnostic (ISD) Program.

A program to phase out perchloroethylene emissions from dry cleaning equipment has also recently begun. Within a number of years the carcinogen perchloroethylene will no longer be used for dry cleaning.

These and other recently enacted State programs have resulted in fewer toxic emissions impacting people within the District. Many of the compliance requirements have been delegated to the District.

IV. FEDERAL AIR TOXICS MANDATES

The EPA has also been developing toxic emission reduction measures. Generally these requirements apply to facilities much larger than those within the District, or have previously been complied with due to California's more restrictive emission limitations.

V. DISTRICT TOXIC NEW SOURCE REVIEW

New stationary sources of emissions require a District permit to operate. To obtain a permit, a source must determine potential emissions and associated health risk to those nearby. Potential health impacts must not exceed the thresholds set by the Board. This is required by District Rule 1000.

VI. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

New facilities and developments also must describe the toxic emissions and resulting health risks to those nearby, and from existing source impacting proposed facilities. The District reviews proposed facilities and developments to be sure this data is included in environmental analyses.