

# Air Quality Update

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## CEQA GUIDANCE

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has released its draft “Guidance for Addressing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts – 2012” (GAMAQI). The GAMAQI, once finalized, would be used by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agencies in the San Joaquin Valley in describing and assessing the impacts on the air quality of proposed projects. The 2012 GAMAQI is more comprehensive than the 2002 version it replaces.

## Changes to the Thresholds of Significance

There are many differences between the 2002 and proposed 2012 versions; however, the changes in the thresholds of significance are the most likely to affect project developers.

- *Criteria Pollutant Emissions* – The District has proposed new mass-based significance thresholds for all criteria pollutants (i.e., NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, CO, VOCs, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) for both construction and operations. In the previous guidance, only PM<sub>10</sub> was evaluated when assessing construction impacts and only NO<sub>x</sub> and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were evaluated when assessing impacts from operations. The 2012 GAMAQI proposes significance thresholds for all criteria pollutants for construction activities and permitted and non-permitted operational activities. For all three categories, the District has proposed annual thresholds that vary according to pollutant, from 10 tons per year for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs to 100 tons per year for CO.
- *Greenhouse Gas Emissions* – The 2012 GAMAQI adopts into guidance

a 2009 District policy regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Emissions from a project would be considered less-than-significant if the project proponent adheres to an approved regional GHG emission reduction plan (e.g., complies with AB 32), if the project implements Best Performance Standards (BPS) for that particular type of equipment or project, or if the project proponent demonstrates that emissions will be reduced by amounts of 29% or more compared to a “business-as-usual approach.” The significance criteria for most other categories of air pollutants proposed in the 2012 GAMAQI are relatively unchanged compared to the 2002 guidance.

## Other Notable Changes

The District has proposed several other changes to its CEQA guidelines with the 2012 draft GAMAQI, including:

- *Small Project Analysis Level* – To streamline the process of assessing the significance of criteria pollutant emissions from common project types, the District has developed the “Small Project Analysis Level” (SPAL) screening tool. Using project type and size, the District has pre-quantified emissions and determined a size below which it is reasonable to conclude that a project would not exceed applicable criteria pollutant significance thresholds. A list of SPALs is available on the District’s website.
- *Fleet Improvement Mitigation Measures* – In recognition that mobile sources are sometimes a major contributor to project impacts on air quality, the District has proposed six measures can be effective in mitigating mobile source impacts, including: 1) replace diesel fleet with alternative fuel engine technology; 2) retrofit existing

equipment using methods such as particulate filters and/or oxidation catalysts; 3) require a 5-minute idling policy; 4) repower/retrofit heavy-duty diesel fleet with cleaner diesel engine technology and/or diesel particulate filters; 5) replace auxiliary power units with cleaner engine technology; and 6) replace diesel fleet vehicles with clean-fuel vehicles.

A copy of the District draft GAMAQI can be found at:

[http://www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public\\_worksh\\_ops\\_idx.htm#4-25-12GAMAQI](http://www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public_worksh_ops_idx.htm#4-25-12GAMAQI)

## Air Quality Tip

*Good recordkeeping is the key to a better inspection. Since the inspector needs to verify compliance based on records presented during the inspection, well-organized records will speed up the process.*

## Upcoming Training Offered by Yorke Engineering:

San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Permitting and Compliance Seminar: October 23 and 24, 2012

<http://www.yorkeengr.com/AirQualityClasses.htm>

## Upcoming Due Dates:

- Title V – Report of Required Monitoring (RRM): Every 6 Months; 30 Days After Reporting Period\*
- Title V – Application for Permit Renewal 180 Days Prior to Permit Expiration\*
- CARB GHG Verification 9/1/12
- Cap & Trade CITSS Reg. 9/1/12
- SJVAPCD eTRIP, Phase 2 Plan Submittal 9/1/12
- SJVAPCD Rule 4320 Enhanced Compliance ATC Application 1/1/13

All due dates listed are the statutory dates; sometimes dates are extended when they fall on a weekend/holiday.

\*The due date is based on the issuance date of the Title V permit.

## RULE 3170 – FEDERALLY MANDATED OZONE NON-ATTAINMENT FEE

Invoices were just recently mailed to implement Rule 3170 non-attainment fees as part of the District effort to comply with Section 185 of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments. The non-attainment fee requirement was triggered due to the SJVAPCD's failure to reach attainment by the 2010 deadline. Rule 3170 applies to any major source of NO<sub>x</sub> or VOCs that has emission units that are not considered to be clean emission units. To be considered a clean emission unit, a unit must be equipped with an emissions control technology with a minimum control efficiency of at least 95% (or at least 85% for lean-burn internal combustion engines) or equipped with an emissions control technology that meets or exceeds the requirements for achieved-in-practice Best Available Control Technology as accepted by the Air Pollution Control Officer during the period from 2006 through 2010. Each Major Source is assessed an annual fee, in addition to permit fees and other fees required under other Rules and Regulations, which is based on the total amount of actual VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> emitted in excess of 80% of baseline emissions. In calculating the fee, any clean emission units are exempted. The NO<sub>x</sub> fee rate for year 2011 emissions is \$8,967.30/ton.

A facility may minimize their non-attainment fee by limiting the usage of non-clean emission units or converting them into clean emission units. *Rule 3170 also allows the facility to use 2 years within 2006-2010 as an alternate baseline period instead of 2010 emissions data.* For facilities that have irregular emissions, an alternate baseline period may reflect a more representative baseline compared to 2010 emissions.

## TITLE V GREENHOUSE GAS PERMITTING

In March 2012, the SJVAPCD sent notification letters to facilities that have been screened as potentially subject to a Title V permit due to their GHG emissions. As of July 1, 2011, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established GHGs to be a regulated pollutant for 100 tons per year [potential to emit (PTE)] on a total GHG mass basis for sources with a PTE of greater than 100,000 tons on a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) basis. The deadline for major sources of GHGs in the San Joaquin Valley to submit a complete Initial Title V application was June 28, 2012. Facilities may avoid a GHG Title V permit by either reducing the permitted facility GHG PTE limit to below the GHG threshold or complying with Rule 2530, Federally Enforceable PTE, providing the District notification and keeping the actual GHG emissions less than half of the major source threshold.

## RULE 4320 – ADVANCED EMISSION REDUCTION OPTIONS FOR BOILERS, STEAM GENERATORS, AND PROCESS HEATERS GREATER THAN 5.0 MMBTU/HR

The deadline to submit an application for an Authority to Construct (ATC) for units that are subject to Rule 4320, based on the enhanced compliance schedule, is January 1, 2013. Rule 4320 was adopted on October 16, 2008, and applies to boilers, steam generators, and process heaters with a total rated heat input of greater than 5.0 MMBtu/hour. The units that are subject to Rule 4320

are required to lower NO<sub>x</sub> emissions or pay an annual emissions fee. Units that choose to comply with the NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard may opt for either a standard or enhanced compliance schedule. Table 1 below summarizes the different categories and NO<sub>x</sub> limits for the units that are subject to the January 1, 2013, deadline for ATC application submittal.

**Table 1: Rule 4320 – Enhanced Schedule**

NO <sub>x</sub> Limit	Rule 4320 Categories
6 ppmv	A. Units w/ total rated heat input > 5 MMBtu/hr to ≤ 20 MMBtu/hr, except for Categories C through G
6 ppmv	B. Units w/ total rated heat input > 20 MMBtu/hr, except for Categories C through G
9 ppmv	C.1. Oilfield Steam Generators w/ total rated heat input > 5 MMBtu/hr to ≤ 20 MMBtu/hr
5 ppmv	C.2. Oilfield Steam Generators w/ total rated heat input > 20 MMBtu/hr
9 ppmv	C.3. Oilfield Steam Generators firing on less than 50% Public Utility Commission (PUC) quality gas
6 ppmv	D.1. Refinery Units w/ total rated heat input > 5 MMBtu/hr to ≤ 20 MMBtu/hr
5 ppmv	D.2. Refinery Units w/ total rated heat input > 20 MMBtu/hr to ≤ 110 MMBtu/hr
9 ppmv	D.4. Refinery Units firing on less than 50% PUC quality gas
9 ppmv	E. Units installed prior to 1/1/2009 and limited by a Permit to Operate (PTO) to an annual heat input > 1.8 billion Btu/year but ≤ 30 billion Btu/year
9 ppmv	F. Units at a wastewater treatment facility firing on less than 50%, by volume, PUC quality gas
9 ppmv	G. Units w/ rated burner heat input of ≤ 5 MMBtu/hr, but w/ the total rated heat input of all the burners in a unit is rated between 5 and 20 MMBtu/hr, as specified in the PTO, and in which the products of combustion do not come in contact with the products of combustion of any other burner

*Yorke Engineering, LLC specializes in air quality and environmental consulting for stationary and mobile sources, including dispersion modeling, health risk assessments, permitting, emission inventories, air quality compliance systems, etc. Yorke Engineering has assisted over 200 customers, including a wide variety of industrial facilities and government organizations throughout California.*