

January 6, 2004

ADVISORY NOTICE FOR GASOLINE DISPENSING FACILITIES

This advisory notice is intended for all persons who are required to have an Air Pollution Permit to Operate for a retail or a non-retail gasoline dispensing facility in Placer County. Information is provided below regarding Enhanced Vapor Recovery regulations and Air Toxics Review of new and/or existing gasoline dispensing facilities.

ENHANCED VAPOR RECOVERY

On April 1, 2001, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted an "Enhanced Vapor Recovery" (EVR) program that seeks to fix existing problems with service station vapor recovery systems. The ARB's most recent advisory has been included in this mailing. This EVR Program phases in new standards over a four (4) year period to achieve a total of 25 tons per day in statewide VOC emission reductions over the performance of existing systems. By April 1, 2005, all underground tanks are required to upgrade their Phase I systems by installing EVR.

The District is classifying the installation of Phase I EVR equipment into two categories: major modifications and non-major modifications.

A **major modification** is one in which excavation occurs, thus requiring the upgrading of Phase I vapor recovery equipment. All major modifications require an Authority to Construct permit from the District prior to the installation of Phase I EVR replacement equipment.

A **non-major modification** occurs when replacing failed components on Phase I systems. All replacement parts must be EVR-certified parts or components. However, if Phase I EVR components or parts are not compatible, pre-EVR certified parts or components may continue to be sold and used. For example, currently there are no certified Phase I EVR components for Phase I coaxial systems, thus non-EVR components can still be used in repairs. All facilities that replace Phase I equipment as a non-major modification are required to notify the District to assure that such replacement is not considered a major modification. Additionally, facilities will be required to apply for and obtain an Authority to Construct Permit to "capture" these changes when the EVR systems must be demonstrated to be in place by April 1, 2005.

Further information on EVR can be found at the CARB website under Programs at www.arb.ca.gov or Ms. Ann Hobbs at the District at (530) 889-7137.

AIR TOXICS REVIEW

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act was enacted in September 1987, with subsequent amendments. The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Act establishes a formal air toxics emission inventory risk quantification program that Districts manage.

Those facilities that pose a potentially significant health risk are required to reduce their risks, thereby reducing the near-source exposure of Californians to toxic air pollutants. Significant risks posed by facilities require public notification and if requested, districts must make health risk assessments available for public review. The District is continuing to evaluate both proposed and existing GDFs to determine the cancer risk that is based upon annual gasoline throughput. Gasoline throughput limits or other means of obtaining emission reductions may be required to reduce toxic risks to the public.

ANNUAL SOURCE TESTING AND OBSERVATION FEES

In the two years, Placer County Air Pollution Control District (District) sought to improve compliance with the District's requirement for the annual testing of vapor recovery systems. The requirement for annual testing is a condition of the permit to operate. We have appreciated the high level of compliance with the testing requirement that has resulted in improved vapor recovery system performance. All facilities must conduct this mandated annual testing. Results must be submitted no later than 30 days following the test(s). Those systems that have failed to conduct their annual testing or submit the results for 2003 will be fined. Additionally those facilities that fail any tests and do not tag out of order the equipment that has failed may be subject to monetary penalties.

In order to assure that these tests are done properly, District staff may randomly observe annual tests to verify that the tests are conducted in accordance with California Air Resources Board approved testing protocols. When District staff observes the annual source testing, the permit holder will be charged a source test observation fee at the District's general labor rate. The observation of testing associated with a new or upgraded facility is covered under the Authority to Construct fees and is therefore not subject to the general labor rate.

RE-INSPECTION FEES

The District continues to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Placer County Weights & Measures Sealer/Agricultural Commissioner's Department (WMS/ACD) to conduct annual inspections of approximately 190 gasoline stations. This effort reduces the program costs to the District and ultimately the fees that the District must assess for annual permit renewal.

WMS/ACD staff conducts annual inspections of gasoline stations. During these inspections non-complying items that need to be fixed may be identified. Staff may re-inspect a gasoline station in order to assure that the non-complying items are corrected. District Rules allow for the recovery of the re-inspection costs at the District's general labor rate. The hourly re-inspection charge shall be assessed notwithstanding any enforcement action related to violations or non-compliance. Bills have been sent for reinspections within the last few months.

This advisory notice and other previously issued advisories can be found on our website at www.placer.ca.gov/apcd or by calling Ms. Ann Hobbs at (530) 889-7137.