



# Pacific Steel Pollution Violations

The following summary explains why Pacific Steel Casting Company is still a serious public odor nuisance and why the Berkeley City Council would do a great public service by mandating that Pacific Steel's use permits be updated to require comprehensive Toxic Use Reduction throughout the facility. Keep the jobs in Berkeley; stop the pollution!

February 12, 2008

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Pacific Steel Casting Company (PSC) is still a major odor nuisance. PSC must be better regulated by the City of Berkeley and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Due to public complaints and pressure on regulators, PSC was compelled to install carbon adsorption systems in Plant 1 (in 1991) and Plant 2 (in 1985). By 1991, after more than a decade of complaints, many members of the public were sick and tired of calling in complaints that were channeled through the BAAQMD's dysfunctional complaint system.

To begin, a community member interested in complaining may have to wait for hours for an inspector to arrive, at which point the nuisance odor may have gone. For that complainant to get a BAAQMD inspector to confirm an odor nuisance complaint, the inspector must confirm that the distinctive PSC odor is present with the complainant at the complainant's address and then follow the odor, block by block, back to PSC. There must be five confirmed complaints within a 24-hour period for a notice of violation to be issued to PSC.

Numerous things can make it too difficult to get a complaint confirmed: meteorological conditions, topographical irregularities and the availability and olfactory capability of inspectors can greatly reduce the likelihood of valid complaints being confirmed. Inspectors have sometimes discouraged community members from complaining. Additionally, there has been no constant BAAQMD regulation from 10 PM through the midnight and morning hours to 1:30 PM, when PSC Plant 3 is in full operation. For a year, BAAQMD would not send inspectors to Berkeley, except during the 9:00 AM-5:00 PM shift, following the assault of an inspector in his car. Currently, at the discretion of the BAAQMD inspector supervisor, inspectors may or may not be sent to respond if three or more phoned complaints have been placed after hours.

It is a testament to the tenacity of long-suffering community members that their complaints have been confirmed (and generated notices of violation) despite the dysfunctional complaint system. Although the last of Pacific Steel's 3 plants received a carbon adsorption system on October 15, 2006, well over 450 complaints (generating 4 notices of violation) have been issued since that time.

## 2007

March:	Notice of Violation #A46071	settled (attributed to Plant 3)
June:	Notice of Violation #A47516	pending (attributed to Plants 1&2)
July:	Notice of Violation #A47517	pending (attributed to Plants 1&2)

## 2008

January:	Notice of Violation #A49777	pending
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Thank you for doing everything possible to clean up Pacific Steel Casting; 30+ years of odor nuisance is far too long.

Sincerely,

Janice Schroeder

West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs

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