



Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Board of Directors  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105

August 10, 2016

Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board Members,

The West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs (Alliance) requests the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) provide information about the status of the Pacific Steel Casting Company (PSC) synthetic minor operating permit (SMOP) under its approved title V operating permit program.

The Alliance thanks the US EPA and the BAAQMD for moving to review PSC's SMOP and for providing a public comment period.

In an August 3, 2016 letter to LA Wood from Gerardo Rios, US EPA Chief, Permits Office, Air Division reference is made to BAAQMD's webpage for information on a synthetic minor operating permit for the PSC facilities. However, the Alliance has been unable to access this information by going to the footnoted BAAQMD website below.

*Excerpt from above mentioned letter from US EPA Chief Gerardo Rios (see attachment EPA Letter to LA Wood 03AUG2016.pdf)*

*According to information provided on the BAAQMD's webpage for this action, the public comment period*

*1*

*ends on August 15, 2016.*

*1 See <http://www.baaqmd.gov/permits/major-facility-review-title-v/title-v-permits/page-resources/table-data/alameda/e2605-smop/pacific-steel-casting>*

The Alliance is deeply troubled and puzzled that the BAAQMD allowed PSC to maintain its SMOP in violation of title V despite requiring PSC to include Plant 1 with Plants 2 & 3 in one SMOP in 2005. According to the BAAQMD letter to PSC in 2005, this permit issue should have been rectified by 2006.

*Excerpt from a September 9, 2005 letter by Brian Bateman, then BAAQMD Director of Engineering, to PSC then Vice President/General Manager Joe Emmerichs: (see attachment 1. PSC Permits to Operate 2005)*

*"...Because Plants #1, #2, and #3 are adjacent and/or contiguous and thus constitute a single facility for purposes of District Regulation 2, Rule 6, the District has determined that Pacific Steel Casting must submit an application to modify the synthetic minor operating permit to include Plant #1, in accordance with District Rule 2-6-422. It may be that the emissions calculations required pursuant to District Rule 2-6-422.4 cannot demonstrate that the potential to emit remains below the emissions thresholds for a "major facility" (District Rules 2-6-212, 2-6-237). In that event, Pacific Steel Casting must submit a major facility review permit application. The appropriate application, including all required documents, must be submitted by no later than December 31, 2005."*

In the 2016 email from Senior Air Quality Engineer Nicolas Maiden to LA Wood PSC's SMOP still only included two of its three plants.

*Excerpt from an email dated February 16, 2016 from BAAQMD Senior Air Quality Engineer Nicolas Maiden to LA Wood, Berkeley community member, regarding PSC's SMOP: (see attachment 5 on homepage at [berkeleycitizen.org](http://berkeleycitizen.org))*

*"The three plants were combined into a single plant number (#22605). The existing SMOP only includes two of the three plants. There is an active SMOP application to combine all three plants as well as include more rigorous and more robust conditions to insure the three plants remain a SMOP."*

The Berkeley community has suffered for more than 10 years as a result of this crucial permitting oversight. (see attachment CARB Reported PSC Emissions 2005 & 2012)

The Alliance strongly urges that PSC be subject to title V as soon as possible. The Alliance also strongly suggests the BAAQMD mandate PSC to install continuous emission monitors (CEMs) on all stacks on its three plants, install fence line monitors at each plant, and provide real time emissions results that are easily accessible to the public on the BAAQMD website.

Regarding public comment and public participation, according to the letter written by Director of Engineering Division Jaimie Williams, dated July 7, 2016 to US EPA Director Deborah Jordan, public notice regarding the SMOP for the PSC facilities would be published in the Oakland Tribune, a defunct newspaper.

*Excerpt from this letter: (see attachment E2605\_07\_2016\_SMOP\_Revision\_Proposed\_EPA\_L-tr\_01)*

*“The notice inviting written public comment will be published in the Oakland Tribune. The final date for members of the public to submit comments is August 15, 2016.*

The BAAQMD appears to be out of touch regarding appropriate media for notice of public comment. This greatly impacts public participation.

The Alliance is a longtime stakeholder in matters concerning PSC and the BAAQMD, but the Alliance was not directly notified of this public comment period. The Alliance did not receive public notice and has not had access to the evaluation report for application #14029 which was mentioned as an enclosure in the above mentioned BAAQMD letter to Director Deborah Jordan.

Sincerely,  
Janice Schroeder  
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