



September 1, 2016

nmaiden@baaqmd.gov

Nicholas Maiden
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Maiden:

The West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs (Alliance) requests that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District extend the deadline for comments on the draft Synthetic Minor Operating Permit (SMOP) proposed for Pacific Steel Casting (PSC) for 30 additional days which would begin after the District releases pertinent records such as: the permit application, the SMOP application (marked 14029), a detailed list of permit applications and the applications themselves from 2006 to 2016, and the emissions calculation information that the District has omitted from the Engineering Evaluation Report. Appendix A in that report is a blank document without an explanation for withholding the information.

In addition, the 2007 federal court ordered consent decree between Communities for a Better Environment and Pacific Steel Casting Company may have terms that are more stringent than those of the proposed permit of which District engineers may not be aware. The terms in the consent decree are binding on successors of the entity that signed the consent decree. If the terms of the decree are more stringent, they should be mentioned in the final permit.

To insure a clear understanding of the technical language and data in the documents, the Alliance and other concerned Berkeley community members invite District staff to host a community meeting on a weekday evening at a location in West Berkeley to fully explain these documents in lay language. This would allow for meaningful public participation in the permitting process. Community members have useful information that could and should lead to better permit terms.

The Alliance and the larger Berkeley community would look forward to engaging with District staff regarding the draft permit for PSC at a community meeting.

Sincerely,
Janice Schroeder
Core Member, West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs