



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2018

SCAQMD Hearing Board Adopts Order to Reduce Lead Emissions from Trojan Battery Co. in Santa Fe Springs

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has obtained an administrative order requiring Trojan Battery Co. to temporarily cease operations if its lead emissions cause outdoor levels of the toxic metal to exceed regulatory limits.

“In addition to our lead air quality regulations -- the most stringent in the nation -- this order will ensure that Trojan reduces its lead emissions on a very aggressive schedule to protect the health of nearby residents,” said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD’s executive officer.

On Wednesday, the independent SCAQMD Hearing Board adopted an administrative order known as an Order for Abatement requiring Trojan to take a number of steps to reduce lead emissions from its operation, including:

- By early April, install two additional outdoor air monitors, including one between the facility and St. Paul High School. The school is located about 1,000 feet from Trojan;
- Shut down any melting or processing of lead if the outdoor air monitors show levels exceeding limits in SCAQMD’s Rule 1420.2 (0.100 micrograms per cubic meter), and remain shut down until the monitors show compliance with the rule limits over a three-day average;
- No later than July 30, move the primary sources of lead dust – the wastewater treatment system and lead materials stored outdoors – into total enclosures;
- No later than Sept. 14, completely enclose all of its operations, and subject the building to negative air pressure so that air flows into the building and lead emissions do not escape from any cracks or small openings; and
- Institute all other requirements in the order to ensure that lead emissions are minimized.

In mid-January, SCAQMD received air monitoring data from Trojan Battery showing elevated outdoor levels of lead in violation of the agency’s Rule 1420.2. SCAQMD issued a Notice of Violation to the facility on Jan. 18.

On Jan. 31, SCAQMD filed a petition with the Hearing Board for a proposed administrative order. Prior to this week’s hearing, Trojan officials agreed to the proposed order.

Trojan will return to the Hearing Board for status hearings on May 9 and Aug. 29. The order is set to expire on Dec. 31 unless extended by the Hearing Board.

Trojan Battery, located at 9440 Ann St. in Santa Fe Springs, manufactures lead-acid, deep-cycle batteries used in golf carts, boats and RVs. Trojan is one of 12 facilities in the region that melt more than 100 tons of lead annually and as such is regulated by SCAQMD's Rule 1420.2.

A preliminary health risk assessment, using the most recent stack emissions test data, was prepared by SCAQMD staff and found that the lead emissions from Trojan would not exceed SCAQMD AB 2588 public notification thresholds. Under the order, Trojan is required to conduct tests of additional emission sources and prepare a health risk assessment including those results.

Lead is a well-known toxic metal that can cause serious health problems, especially in young children. Breathing, eating, or drinking high levels of lead can cause developmental and behavioral problems in children, including lowered IQ, growth problems, and attention-related behaviors.

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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