Dear Board Members,

Earlier this year there were two news reports having to do with cyber security and terrorism threats. One (See NY Times Article) dealt with the FBI notifying utility and power companies that many sites have already been hacked, and that others are threatened. These mostly related to electrical plants, but a refinery would certainly be a target, especially in such a high-densely populated area. And the threats seemed to be just cutting the power to cause a massive shutdown.

But the other news report was more alarming. It spoke of an attack in Saudi Arabia against a refinery where they were able to get into the control system and tried to cause the entire plant to explode. NY Times 2 Normally the operational systems are not connected to the internet, and are isolated to prevent such actions. But, just like the centrifuges in Iran several years back, it is not absolutely secure.

To quote from the last article:

All of the investigators believe the attack was most likely intended to cause an explosion that would have killed people. In the last few years, explosions at petrochemical plants in China and Mexico — though not triggered by hackers — have killed several employees, injured hundreds and forced evacuations of surrounding communities.

What worries investigators and intelligence analysts the most is that the attackers compromised Schneider's Triconex controllers, which keep equipment operating safely by performing tasks like regulating voltage, pressure and temperatures. Those controllers are used in about 18,000 plants around the world, including nuclear and water treatment facilities, oil and gas refineries, and chemical plants.

"If attackers developed a technique against Schneider equipment in Saudi Arabia, they could very well deploy the same technique here in the United States," said James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

The Triconex system was believed to be a "lock and key operation." In other words, the safety controllers could be tweaked or dismantled only with physical contact.

So there is a very real threat, by very real enemies, which could do us much harm. And we have two oil refineries in our immediate area which would be prime targets, juust because they have the potential to do the greatest harm to the most people, and to our infrastructure. If these refineries ever release large quantities of MHF, it would cause deaths

and permanent injuries to tens or hundreds of thousands of people, and potentially shut down the LA Airport and our ports, as well as dozens of schools, hospitals and shopping malls.

But this threat can easily be alleviated if we pass rule 1410 to ban MHF at the earliest possible time. Certainly before the Olympics are held here. That (I assume) is when the terrorism threat would be the greatest. But it is by no means the only time.

Your (AQMD) primary purpose in existing is to protect our air and our lives. If you can't do that, why are you here? You MUST get rid of this threat. Mitigation (if it works) can only reduce the number of people killed or permanently injured – it cannot protect us!

Sincerely,
Steve Dillow
Torrance resident

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