

Consensus Recommendation of the Refinery Action Collaborative to Ensure Prevention of Feedstock-Related Emissions Increase.

Recommendation to Ensure Prevention of Feedstock-Related Emissions Increase.

We recommend monitoring, reporting and documentation of refinery oil feedstock, the full range of potential emission impacts from feedstock changes, and the measures taken to ensure that such potential impacts will be prevented when feasible. This reporting and documentation should be transparent, meaning that information including raw data and summary data is made available to the public in easily accessible format for independent verification of analyses and conclusions. Specifically,

To prevent new harm from feedstock-related emission increases, each refinery would be required to monitor and report its oil feedstock, and any proposed equipment change related to enabling a change in feedstock quantity or quality. Any proposed change in equipment related to enabling the refining of more oil, lower quality oil, or both, or any actual worsening of oil quality or increase in total oil throughput or both, would trigger a requirement to demonstrate that:

- the change in oil quantity, quality, or both (of the blend, or “slate,” of oils refined) will not increase incident emission risk;*
- the change in oil quantity, quality, or both will not increase routine emissions of any pollutant; *and*
- the change in oil quantity, quality, or both will not use up any emission reduction measure that is needed to reduce the refinery’s ongoing emission of any pollutant that currently causes or contributes to air quality or environmental health harm.

Refiners would bear the burden of making each of these three demonstrations. The Air District would bear the burden of ensuring transparent reporting and third-party verification through an independent community/worker oversight board that selects and oversees experts. Refiners would bear the burden of funding this independent verification (the independent oversight board and the experts it selects).

Non reporting consequences: Non reporting must not be allowed to defeat prevention. Equipment changes enabling the refining of more oil, lower quality oil, or both that are not reported before installation (1) cannot be considered in a feasibility analysis as a reason for failure to return to baseline emissions, (2) trigger all required demonstrations retroactively, and (3) require refiner-financed Air District monitoring in place of self-monitoring.

** We anticipate that this would be demonstrated through a Process Hazard Analysis or similar documented, verifiable analysis.*

Notes: This recommendation is excerpted in its entirety from the 13 June 2013 comments of the Refinery Action Collaborative to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the District’s proposed *Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking Rule*. The recommendation was researched and developed by the Collaborative and proposed by consensus of its member groups. The Asian Pacific Environmental Network, BlueGreen Alliance, Communities for a Better Environment, Labor Occupational Health Program at UC Berkeley, Natural Resources Defense Council, United Steelworkers International, and USW Local 5 signed the Collaborative’s 13 June 2013 comments.