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Air District Analysis Shows High Compliance With Rules Monitoring and Testing at Major Facilities Seen as Effective Deterrents

San Francisco, July 21, 2004. An analysis of emissions tests performed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) at major industrial facilities showed a 96.8 percent compliance rate during source tests over the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004. In addition, analysis of the continuous emissions monitor (CEM) data from 1998 - 2002 showed that the monitors were operational over 99 percent of the time, and the sources monitored were in compliance with District requirements over 99 percent of that time. The 140 major facilities reviewed in the data include refineries, power plants, chemical plants, and other industrial plants.

The Air District analyzed the results from 571 emissions tests performed by Air District personnel and outside contractors who climb smoke stacks to test emissions at their source using high tech equipment in specially outfitted vans.

The Air District also tracks compliance using continuous emission monitors (CEMS)-- electronic instrumentation that measures air emissions 24 hours a day. There are currently 509 individual monitors in service at the large facilities where the source tests were conducted. Approximately 200 of these monitors were installed in the last three years in response to Air District requirements imposed during the initial issuance or renewal of air quality permits at the facilities.

"These high rates of compliance demonstrate that vigilant testing and continuous emissions monitoring are effective incentives to comply with our regulations," stated Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "They are also the result of hard work by our source test engineers, air monitoring specialists and by the staffs at the major facilities. All these efforts add up to cleaner air for Bay Area residents," Broadbent added.

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