



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

March 9, 2010

James Simonelli
Cal Metals Coalition
2971 Warren Ln.
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Dear James Simonelli

We need your help in delivering this important message to your association members: Businesses within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's four-county jurisdiction can now obtain necessary but overdue air quality permits without incurring late fees or violation penalties.

AQMD's Permit Application Penalty Holiday, which went into effect on February 5, 2010 and is only available through August 4, 2010, will allow your members to come into compliance with air permit requirements without financial consequences due to penalties and additional fees that can impact their operations. For example, cost savings for additional fees alone can range anywhere from \$650 to \$5,300, depending on the type of equipment in use.

We understand that some companies, especially small businesses, might be unaware of this program or even specific air quality permit requirements. That's why we need your help! Any business that operates equipment producing or controlling air emissions needs to operate under the proper air quality permits issued by AQMD. You can find more information about air quality permits and the Permit Application Penalty Holiday at www.aqmd.gov.

By helping us reach your members, you will be providing an important service that can save them from the costs of penalties. Please use the enclosed fact sheet to inform your members through appropriate communication channels such as:

- Association websites;
- Association newsletters and flyers;
- E-mail blasts;
- Association meetings and events; and
- Other available channels of communication.

By informing your members of this opportunity we can work together to help protect the region's business climate and safeguard clean air. For further assistance and additional information, please call AQMD's Public Advisor Anupom Ganguli at 909-396-3185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry R. Wallerstein", written over a white background.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

Enclosure

Fact Sheet
AQMD's Permit Application Penalty Holiday

- 1. What is the Permit Application Penalty Holiday?**
A temporary opportunity for Southland government agencies and businesses that should have applied for and obtained air quality permits to get them without incurring late fees or violation penalties when certain conditions are met.
- 2. Why is AQMD providing a temporary permit application penalty "holiday?"**
AQMD recognizes the current economic challenges that face small businesses and local governments. The permit penalty holiday will allow government agencies and business owners an opportunity to come into compliance without incurring penalties and late fees that could have some financial impact on their operations.
- 3. How long will it last?**
Six months. It started on February 5, 2010 and will run through August 4, 2010.
- 4. Are other permit or rule requirements also waived for facilities during this period?**
No. Facilities must pay the regular permitting fee with their application and comply with all other applicable air quality rules and regulations, such as New Source Review that requires facilities use the cleanest air pollution control technologies available.
- 5. Which facilities are eligible to participate in the program?**
All facilities, other than very large emitters (known as federal Title V sources,) operating any piece of equipment without a permit are eligible to participate in the program. Title V facilities are eligible to participate only for small equipment operating without a permit.
- 6. When is a facility NOT eligible to participate?**
Any facility that received a Notice to Comply or Notice of Violation from AQMD for operating a piece of equipment without a permit or which had already filed a permit application prior to February 5, 2010 is not eligible to participate.
- 7. How much could a facility save by participating in the program?**
Cost savings vary depending on equipment type and could range from about \$900 for smaller equipment, such as a restaurant charbroiler, to about \$5,300 for other equipment such as a spray booth with pollution controls.
- 8. Has AQMD offered this program in the past?**
Yes. AQMD offered a similar program in 1990 and again in 1995, when it received more than 600 permit applications during a six-month period, mostly from small businesses.
- 9. How can I get more information on the program?**
Call AQMD at (909) 396-3385 or send an e-mail to permit_amnesty@aqmd.gov