



Riverside County
Waste Management Department

Hans W. Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

May 6, 2009

Richard Boyd, Manager
Process Evaluation Section
California Air Resources Board
Stationary Source Division
1001 I Street
PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Comments Regarding Draft Proposed Regulation Order – Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (3/18/09 Version)

Dear Mr. Boyd:

The Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD) has been conducting methane surface emissions at fourteen MSW landfills for over twenty years under South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Rule 1150.1. SCAQMD has granted RCWMD several exemptions to Rule 1150.1 based on historical data from the RCWMD's extensive surface monitoring over decades that show little to no methane surface emissions and we believe it is critical that CARB adopt the same reasonable approach. The current draft regulation order inadequately addresses landfills that have extensive historical data documenting compliance and a provision should be made that would allow historical data to be used in lieu of the 25-foot grid spacing or 25 ppm integrated surface emissions monitoring requirement.

Additionally, if this regulation were to be adopted in its current form, RCWMD would have to double its current field staff to comply with the extra monitoring and reporting created by this regulation. This would create an undue hardship on RCWMD because, due to the state of the economy, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors currently has implemented a hiring freeze.

The RCWMD is formally providing these comments on the draft proposed regulation order for the Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSW) (Article 4, Subarticle 6, Sections 95460 to 95477, Title 17, California Code of Regulations, 3/18/09 Version).

Section 95468(b) Alternative Compliance Plans

Section 95468(b) currently states, "Criteria that the Executive Officer may use to evaluate alternative compliance options requests include but are not limited to:..." The RCWMD requests that this language be changed as follows to be more affirmative:

"Criteria that the Executive Officer ~~may use~~ **will use** to evaluate alternative compliance options requests include, but are not limited to:..."

The RCWMD believes that 20 years of quarterly, semi-annual and annual historical data of 100-foot spacing for integrated as well as instantaneous surface sampling is just as good or better than one-year's worth of quarterly 25-foot spacing. If allowed, the RCWMD intends on submitting decades of historic surface sampling data in lieu of one-year worth of quarterly monitoring at 25-foot spacing for integrated and instantaneous methane surface monitoring and go straight to 100-foot spacing for methane surface monitoring.

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Section 95470(b)(1) Reporting Requirements

The RCWMD requests that Section 95470 (b)(1) Closure notification, be stricken from the regulation order. Closure notification is already reported to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and SCAQMD.

Section 95471(b) Test Methods and Procedures, Determination of Landfill Gas Heat Input Capacity

The RCWMD has discussed this section with CARB staff member Renaldo Crooks and sent several e-mails on this topic. The section was not clear on how to measure gas heat input capacity where an existing control device is in place, e.g. flares. It appears that the last line in Section 95471 (b)(1), "Site-specific data may be substituted when available", was added to the 3/18/09 version of the regulation order to try to address this concern. However, the RCWMD requests that this last sentence be changed as follows:

"Site-specific data ~~may~~ can be substituted when available."

The RCWRMD has communicated with Mr. Crooks regarding adding a 4th option to section 95471 "Test Methods and Procedures" (b) "Determination of Landfill Gas Heat Input Capacity" to the order. Currently, the draft proposed order lists three types of devices: (1) Landfills Without Carbon Adsorption Systems; (2) Landfills With Carbon Adsorption Systems; and (3) Landfills with Passive Venting Systems. The RCWMD currently operates ten flares and believes that this data can be determined from annual flare source test reports. The RCWMD requests that the following be added to the final regulations to allow for the heat input capacity determination for flares:

95471(b)(4) Enclosed Flare: The landfill gas heat capacity must be determined by measuring the actual total landfill gas flow rate, in standard cubic feet per minute (scfm), using a flow meter or other flow measuring device such as a standard pitot tube and methane concentration (percent by volume) using a hydrocarbon detector meeting the requirements of 95471(a). The total landfill gas flow rate must be multiplied by the methane concentration and then multiplied by the gross heating value (GHV) of methane of 1,012 Btu/scf to determine the landfill gas heat input capacity.

Section 95471(e) Test Methods and Procedures, Determination of Expected Gas Generation Flow Rate

Section 95471(e) states, "The expected gas generation flow rate must be determined as prescribed in the 2006 Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Chapter 3, which is incorporated by reference herein, using a recover rate of 75 percent." The RCWMD requests that the text be changed as follows:

The expected gas generation flow rate must be determined as prescribed in the 2006 Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Chapter 3, which is incorporated by reference herein, using a recover rate of 75 percent. **Site-specific data can be substituted when available.**

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The RCWMD believes that using the existing flare flow rate multiplied by 133% (the inverse of 75%) is a much better determination of the gas generation flow rate than using the IPCC spreadsheet that many landfill gas industry members have documented as over estimating landfill gas flow rate in semi-arid and arid environments.

Please feel free to call me or Mark Hunt of my staff at (951) 486-3200 should you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues in our comment letter.

Sincerely,



Hans W. Kernkamp
General Manager-Chief Engineer

ACMD/MH:acmd/mh

cc: Renaldo Crooks, CARB
Daniel E. Donohoue, CARB
Joe McCann\Angela Dufresne\Mark Hunt\Noah Rau

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