State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 86-85

September 25, 1986

Agenda Item No.: 86-11-2

WHEREAS, on July 25, 1985, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39662, the Air Resources Board (ARB or the "Board") identified ethylene dibromide as a toxic air contaminant for which there is not sufficient available scientific evidence to support the identification of a threshold exposure level below which no significant adverse health effects are anticipated (Title 17, California Administrative Code, Section 93000);

WHEREAS, following identification of ethylene dibromide as a toxic air contaminant, the staff prepared for the Board's review a report titled "The Need for Controlling Airborne Ethylene Dibromide" (the "Report") which addresses the present and future uses and emissions of ethylene dibromide, the exposure to and risk from ethylene dibromide, the physical and chemical characteristics of ethylene dibromide in the ambient air, and the potential for development of ethylene dibromide control measures;

WHEREAS, the people of California were exposed to an annual average ambient ethylene dibromide concentration of approximately six parts per trillion in 1985;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services (DHS) concluded in its health effects evaluation that the added lifetime cancer risk from ambient ethylene dibromide exposure ranges from 1.02 to 5.53 excess cases per million people continuously exposed to ten parts per trillion ethylene dibromide;

WHEREAS, the Scientific Review Panel, established pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39670, found that the DHS' estimates of ethylene dibromide risk "...are reasonable, appropriately conservative, and are based on valid scientific judgment";

WHEREAS, recent federal regulations affecting the use of ethylene dibromide (restrictions on its use as a pesticide and restrictions on lead content in gasoline) are expected to reduce the 1985 emission levels approximately 70 percent by 1990;

WHEREAS, in the absence of additional control measures for ethylene dibromide, the range of individual cancer risk from exposure to ambient concentrations of ethylene dibromide in California in the year 1990 is estimated to be below one excess lifetime cancer case per million persons;

WHEREAS, ethylene dibromide emissions from the use of leaded vehicular fuel is expected to decline significantly in the future without ARB adoption of control measures, and there are no other sources of ethylene dibromide emissions that the ARB or the local districts have clear authority to regulate under the Health and Safety Code;

WHEREAS, the staff has recommended in the Report that additional ethylene dibromide control measures should not be developed at this time, but that monitoring of ambient ethylene dibromide levels should continue and that if future ambient levels do not decrease as expected, the staff should advise the Board and again review the need for development of ethylene dibromide control measures;

WHEREAS, the staff of the Board made the Report available to the public and submitted it for review to the Technical Review Group (TRG) consisting of representatives from the districts, the ARB and Environmental Protection Agency;

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public meeting held September 25, 1986, the Board reviewed the Report and considered the written comments and public testimony it received; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the Report adequately discusses the public health risks from ethylene dibromide exposure and the need for ethylene dibromide control measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the staff recomendation in the report titled "The Need for Controlling Airborne Ethylene Dibromide" that ethylene dibromide control measures need not be developed at this time; that the ARB staff should continue to monitor ambient levels of ethylene dibromide; and that if future ambient levels do not decrease as expected, staff should advise the Board and again review the need for development of ethylene dibromide control measures.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 86-85, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Harold Holmes

Harold Holmes, Board Secretary