



Western States Petroleum Association  
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Vice President

June 29, 2018

Dr. David Edwards  
Branch Chief  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

sent via email: Ctr-report@arb.ca.gov

Re: WSPA Comments on AB 617 Criteria Pollutant and Toxic Air Contaminant Emissions Reporting Workshops

Dear Dave,

The Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) appreciates this opportunity to provide feedback to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) on the Workshops regarding the Proposed AB 617 Regulation for Criteria Pollutant and Toxic Air Contaminant Emissions Reporting, held on May 30, May 31, June 5, June 7, and June 18, 2018. WSPA is a non-profit trade association representing companies that explore for, produce, refine, transport and market petroleum, petroleum products, natural gas and other energy supplies in California and four other western states.

**General Comments**

WSPA believes that a guiding principle for the new AB 617 statewide emission inventory reporting program should be to improve existing local and state practices rather than creating a new “system” with associated guidelines and verification requirements. This principle can be served by: 1) improving the consistency and accuracy of existing air District reporting programs, 2) streamlining transmission of emissions data from Districts to ARB, and 3) improving the state’s existing online databases (e.g., CEIDARS, CHAPIS, Mapping Tools). That being said, WSPA understands from the recent Workshops that ARB is committed to developing a new reporting tool (i.e., portal) within the next three years.

While WSPA supports the concept of “uniform” emissions reporting it also recognizes that methodology differences currently exist between Districts, some of which have historic purposes that need to be considered and accommodated in any new system going forward. ARB guidelines for AB 617 implementation should supplement existing District emissions inventory reporting guidelines, with objectives to improve clarity and consistency of emissions reporting throughout the state, but not jeopardize compliance with current permit limits and local rules.

WSPA agrees with ARB’s proposed two-phase approach to emissions reporting, with “best available” methods being used in Phase 1 (reporting years 2018 and 2019) though the timeline for both phases of reporting seems rushed considering the level of effort and the lack of a statutory deadline in AB 617 for this component.

## **Specific Comments**

### **Rulemaking Schedule**

On Slide 19 of the Workshop presentation, it was indicated that regulatory language is targeted to be brought to the ARB governing Board in “late 2018”. Given that tight schedule, WSPA requests that ARB initiate industry sector workgroups (also noted in Slide 19) immediately and schedule multiple formal workshops starting in July 2018. This will allow stakeholders to better understand the requirements of each phase, and in particular, the uniform methodologies and new reporting portal data elements planned for Phase 2 (Slide 7).

WSPA understands from the Workshop presentation that proposed methodologies (i.e., “industry protocols”) will be developed for use beginning with Phase 2 reporting, and requests that this continue to be a priority topic of discussion with stakeholders.

### **Reporting Schedule**

On Slide 14 of the Workshop presentation, it is proposed that data is to be reviewed and finalized by August 1 of each year. Given that it is unclear at this time what data will be required to be reported, setting the first year deadline of August 1 does not allow for a reasonable program phase-in. WSPA suggests that ARB consider a first year deadline for review and finalizing data of October 1, 2019.

### **Threshold for “Elevated” Prioritization Score**

On Slide 10 of the Workshop presentation, an “elevated” prioritization score is identified as an applicability criteria. However, ARB acknowledged that this criteria is lacking definition at this time. Given ARB’s indication that Districts will be responsible for calculating prioritization scores, WSPA is concerned about how applicability will be managed consistently across the state and therefore asks that this topic be addressed in workshops well in advance of ARB Governing Board approval of the regulation.

### **Duplicate Reporting**

WSPA is sensitive to what might be ARB’s biggest challenge - working with individual Districts to accommodate unique differences that already exist between local emission inventory reporting programs, and thereby avoidance of separate reporting to the state and Districts. WSPA asks that ARB be mindful during this regulatory process of additional burdens placed on stakeholders if subject to duplicate reporting, the additional enforcement risk of two separate reporting processes, and any mixed messages to the public that might arise with different emission inventories available online to the public.

WSPA appreciates this opportunity to provide our input regarding the AB 617 emission reporting. We look forward to continued discussion of this important aspect of the AB 617 program through future workshops. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 701-9142 or via e-mail at [tom@wspa.org](mailto:tom@wspa.org).

Sincerely,

