



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# Air Resources Board

Mary Nichols, Chairman  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

April 16, 2008

## Interested Community Members and Stakeholders:

As a part of its efforts to promote a comprehensive emissions reduction program, the staff of the Air Resources Board (ARB), in cooperation with representatives from BNSF Railway (BNSF), will conduct three public meetings to present the results of the draft railyard health risk assessments for three BNSF railyards located in Southern California. In addition, ARB staff and BNSF representatives will provide a progress presentation on the overall emission reduction efforts for each railyard. The BNSF railyards are San Diego, Barstow, and San Bernardino.

As background, ARB identified particulate matter from diesel exhaust (diesel PM) as a toxic air contaminant in 1998. Statewide diesel PM accounts for about 70 percent of the estimated potential ambient air toxics cancer risk. Some residential areas are in close proximity to significant sources of diesel PM such as ports, railyards, and freeways. In those areas, increases in cancer risk is often significant and can, in a few cases, equal or exceed the regional background levels. The railyards health risk assessments (HRA) provide the necessary information to design and implement effective mitigation plans for each railyard. These mitigation plans are part of ARB's efforts to reduce public exposure to diesel PM emissions statewide by 85 percent by 2020.

The date, time, location, and railyards covered for the draft railyard HRA public meetings are listed below:

<u>Date/Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Railyards Covered:</u>
Tuesday, May 6, 2008 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Center 2902 Marcy Avenue San Diego, California 92113	BNSF San Diego
Wednesday, May 7, 2008 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	City of Barstow Council Chambers 220 E. Mountain View Barstow, California 92311	BNSF Barstow
Thursday, May 8, 2008 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	City of San Bernardino Council Chambers 300 North "D" Street San Bernardino, California 92418	BNSF San Bernardino

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Public comments will be accepted up to 30 days (June 9, 2008) after the May 6-8, 2008 public meetings. The ARB will address the public comments and plans to finalize the railyard HRAs by July 2008. Upon finalization of the railyard HRAs, ARB and the railroads will begin the public process to identify and discuss additional mitigation measures for each individual railyard.

The three BNSF railyard HRAs are part of a second set of seven railyard HRAs to be completed by ARB, UP and BNSF Railway (BNSF) railroads in 2008. Four UP railyard HRAs for UP ICTF/Dolores, UP Colton, UP City of Industry, and UP Oakland were released in mid-March. The first set of nine designated, and one non designated, railyard HRAs were released and finalized in 2007.

If you are a person with limited English, there will interpreter services available at these meetings. The draft health risk assessments and emission inventories and air dispersion modelling for each of the three BNSF southern California railyards can be found on the ARB's railyard website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/hra.htm>. This meeting notice is available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/community/community.htm>.

If you have questions about the upcoming public meetings, please contact me at (916) 324-8167 or Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager, Engineering Evaluation Section, at (916) 324-8029.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Fletcher, Chief  
Stationary Source Division

cc: Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager  
Engineering Evaluation Section