



Air Resources Board



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary Nichols, Chairman
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 26, 2008

Interested Community Members:

As part of its efforts to promote a comprehensive railyard emissions reduction program, the Air Resources Board (ARB) staff, in cooperation with representatives from Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and BNSF Railway (BNSF), will conduct a public meeting to discuss UP's and BNSF's draft mitigation plans to reduce diesel particulate matter emissions at the four Commerce railyards. UP and BNSF prepared the initial draft mitigation plans pursuant to a 2005 Agreement between ARB, BNSF, and UP.

The dates, times, and location for the four Commerce draft railyard mitigation plans public meetings are provided below:

<u>Date/Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Railyard Covered:</u>
Wednesday, October 15, 2008 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	City of Commerce Council Chambers 2535 Commerce Way Commerce, California 90040	UP Commerce
Thursday, October 16, 2008 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	City of Commerce Council Chambers 2535 Commerce Way Commerce, California 90040	BNSF Hobart BNSF Commerce-Eastern BNSF Sheila Mechanical

The draft mitigation plans for the UP and BNSF Commerce 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>. Public comments on the UP and BNSF Commerce railyard draft mitigation plans are encouraged prior to, and up to 30 days after, the October 15-16, 2008 public meetings. If you are a person with limited English, there will be interpreter services available at these meetings.

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 are often significant and can, in a few cases, equal or exceed the regional background levels. The estimated regional background risk level

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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for the South Coast Air Basin is estimated to be about 1,000 in a million caused by all toxic air pollutants in 2000.

In May 2007, ARB staff released draft health risk assessments (HRA) for the four Commerce railyards. An HRA is a tool that is used to evaluate the potential for a chemical to cause cancer or other illness. A risk assessment uses mathematical models to estimate the theoretical maximum health impacts from exposure to certain concentrations or levels of toxic air pollutants released from a facility or found in the air. The HRA also provides the necessary information to design and implement an effective mitigation plan for each railyard. In the case of the four Commerce railyards, ARB staff estimated that in 2005 the maximum individual cancer risk (MICR) was about 700 in a million excess cancer risk for specific areas near the railyards. In addition, in 2005 a population of about 1,300,000 was exposed to about ten in a million excess cancer risk in a number of areas surrounding the railyards.

In a separate but complementary effort, the ARB staff is developing a technical assessment of potential additional strategies that can be implemented to further reduce diesel particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen emissions generated from locomotives operating regionally and other emissions sources at specific railyards. ARB staff will discuss the status of this effort at the meeting.

ARB, UP, and BNSF will make every effort to include all interested parties in the meeting notification process. We recognize that numerous individuals and organizations conduct additional outreach efforts in their specific community. To assist with these efforts, we would like to encourage those individuals and organizations to photocopy and distribute this public meeting notice. Alternatively, you may contact Ms. Maria Yanez-Forgash, with Arellano Associates, to add anyone to the project database and to receive additional copies of meeting flyers. Ms. Yanez-Forgash may be reached at (909) 627-2974.

If you have questions about the upcoming meeting, please call 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