

Feather River Air Quality Management District

2.12.1 – Facility Prioritization and Risk Assessment Thresholds

Date Approved: 5/19/2017

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish thresholds which will be used for the facility prioritization and risk assessment provisions of the AB 2588 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act of 1987 (Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Act) in accordance with Health and Safety Code §44344.4(c). This policy will also be used to establish thresholds for permitting of sources of toxic air contaminants based on the quantitative effects of contaminant toxicity.

BACKGROUND:

The Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Act¹ established a statewide program for inventory of air toxics emissions from individual facilities as well as requirements for risk assessment and public notification. As part of the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Act, districts are required to prioritize facilities for the purposes of health risk assessment. The prioritization process is based on examination of the emissions from a stationary source and the pollutant risk data published by ARB and OEHHA. Facilities subject to this requirement will be assigned three prioritization scores for acute non-carcinogenic, chronic non-carcinogenic, and carcinogenic effects. Based on the calculated scores, a “low”, “intermediate”, or “high” designation will be assigned to the facility.

Additionally, districts are given authority under the California Health and Safety Code §41700 to protect the public from the discharge of air contaminants or other materials which endanger health and public safety. As part of the permitting process, districts evaluate the risks associated with toxic air contaminants emitted from facilities and may establish thresholds for consideration prior to issuing air quality permits. In order to streamline the air toxics risk assessment/permitting process, the thresholds established for permit issuance will coincide with the thresholds established for the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program.

POLICY:

Prioritization

For the facility prioritization provisions of the AB 2588 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act of 1987 and for the purpose of evaluating the risks associated with the emissions of toxic air contaminants from new or modified facilities, the District shall use the criteria in Table 1 to determine facility prioritization:

Table 1 – Evaluation of Facility Prioritization Scores

Facility Score ^a	Facility Description
$TS \geq 10$	High Priority
$1 \leq TS < 10$	Intermediate Priority
$TS < 1$	Low Priority

^a The facility’s score is determined by the greater of the Carcinogenic Effects calculation or the Non-carcinogenic Effects calculation.

¹ Health and Safety Code 44300 et,Al

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A Facility Scored as High Priority shall undergo a Screening Risk Assessment. A Facility Scored as Low or Intermediate Priority shall satisfy the requirements of this policy and not be subject to further toxics screening.

Screening Risk Assessment

As a preliminary evaluation tool, a Screening Risk Assessment may be used in place of a Refined Risk Assessment. A facility's Screening Risk Assessment that meets the following risk criteria shall satisfy the requirements of this policy and not be subject to further toxics screening:

- The cancer risk associated with the facility does not exceed ten (10) theoretical lifetime increased incidence of cancer per million population; and,
- The acute Health Hazard Index (HHI) is less than one (1); and,
- The chronic Health Hazard Index (HHI) is less than one (1); or,
- The project is subject to and complies with an ATCM or NESHAP, as determined by the APCO.

If the Screening Risk Assessment indicates that any applicable risk criteria are exceeded, there shall be the option to submit a refined risk assessment.

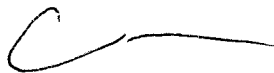
Refined Risk Assessment

The refined risk assessment shall meet the standards of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment². A facility shall satisfy the permitting requirements of this policy if it meets the following criteria:

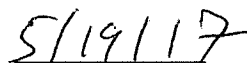
- The cancer risk associated with the facility does not exceed ten (10) theoretical lifetime increased incidence of cancer per million population; and,
- The acute Health Hazard Index (HHI) is less than one (1); and,
- The chronic Health Hazard Index (HHI) is less than one (1); or,
- The project is subject to and complies with an ATCM or NESHAP, as determined by the APCO.

In the event that any of the Refined Risk Assessment permitting requirements are not satisfied, the following shall apply:

- T-BACT shall be required if the risk results in a potential cancer risk of greater than or equal to 10 incidence of increased cancer per million population or an acute or chronic HHI of greater than or equal to 1.
- The APCO may approve a proposed facility or modification which has installed T-BACT if the cancer risk is within the range of 10 to 100 in a million, or the acute or chronic HHI is between 1 and 10.
- The APCO shall not approve a proposed facility or modification if the cancer risk is greater than or equal to 100 in a million, or the acute or chronic HHI is greater than 10.
- The APCO may determine to deny a permit where risk assessment demonstrates risks below the significant permitting thresholds and shall prepare a specific findings report to document the reasons for the denial.



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Date:

² <https://oehha.ca.gov/air/air-toxics-hot-spots>