RULE 4625 WASTEWATER SEPARATORS (Adopted April 11, 1991; Amended May 21, 1992; Amended December 17, 1992; Amended December 15, 2011)

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to limit VOC emissions from wastewater separators by requiring vapor loss control devices, recordkeeping, inspection and test methods.

2.0 Applicability

This rule applies to wastewater separators including air flotation units as defined in this rule. The requirements of this rule only apply to the separation of crude oil and water after custody transfer.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 Air flotation unit: equipment used to remove suspended matter, both oil and solid, from water by dissolving air under pressure and then releasing the air at atmospheric pressure in a tank or basin.

3.2 APCO: the Air Pollution Control Officer of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, or any person authorized to act on behalf of the APCO.

3.3 ARB: California Air Resources Board as established by the California Health and Safety Code Section 39510, or any person authorized to act on its behalf.

3.4 Custody transfer: the physical and contractual ownership transfer of produced fluids from an oil producer to another entity.

3.5 District: San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

3.6 EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency.

3.7 Operator: includes but is not limited to any person who owns, leases, supervises, or operates a facility and/or equipment.

3.8 Volatile Organic Compound (VOC): as defined in Rule 1020 (Definitions).

3.9 Wastewater Separator: any device or piece of equipment that is used to remove oil and associated chemicals from water, or any device, such as a flocculation tank, clarifier, etc. that removes petroleum-derived compounds from wastewater.

3.10 Wastewater Separator Forbay: that section of a gravity-type wastewater separator which receives the untreated, oil-water waste from the preseparator flume; and acts as a header which distributes the influent to the separator channels.

4.0 [Reserved]

5.0 Requirements

5.1 A person shall not use any compartment of any vessel or device operated for the recovery of oil or tar from effluent water, from any equipment which processes, refines, stores or handles petroleum or coal tar products unless such compartments are equipped with one of the following vapor loss control devices, except when gauging or sampling is taking place:

5.1.1 A solid cover with all openings sealed and totally enclosing the liquid contents of the compartment, except for such breathing vents as are structurally necessary; or

5.1.2 A floating pontoon or double-deck type cover, equipped with closure seals that have no holes or tears, installed and maintained so that gaps between the compartment wall and seal shall not exceed one-eighth inch for an accumulative length of 97 percent of the perimeter of the tank, and shall not exceed one-half inch for an accumulative length of the remaining three percent of the perimeter of the tank. No gap between the compartment wall and the seal shall exceed one-half inch; or

5.1.3 A vapor recovery system with a combined collection and control efficiency of at least 95 percent by weight.

5.2 Any gauging and sampling device in the compartment cover shall be equipped with a cover or lid. The cover shall be in a closed position at all times, except when the device is in actual use.

5.3 All wastewater separator forbays shall be covered.

5.4 Skimmed oil or tar removed from wastewater separating devices shall be either charged to process units with feed or transferred to a container with a control system with at least 90 percent control efficiency by weight. A control device must be under District permit.

5.5 Inspection

On and after January 1, 2013:

5.5.1 An operator complying with Section 5.1.1 shall visually inspect, the manholes, roof hatches, or other openings on the fixed roof, at least once every 12 months after the tank is initially filled with an organic liquid. No holes, tears, or other openings are allowed that would permit the escape of hydrocarbon vapors. Any defects found are violations of this rule.

5.5.2 An operator complying with Section 5.1.2 shall visually inspect, the internal floating roof and its appurtenant parts, fittings, etc., and the primary seal and/or secondary seal at least once every 12 months after the tank is initially filled with an organic liquid. Other than the gap criteria specified by this rule, no holes, tears, or other openings are allowed that would permit the escape of hydrocarbon vapors. Any defects found are violations of this rule.

5.5.3 An operator complying with Section 5.1.3 shall visually inspect the manholes, roof hatches, other openings, fittings, etc., at least once every 12 months after the tank is initially filled with an organic liquid. No holes, tears, or other openings are allowed that would permit the escape of hydrocarbon vapors. Any defects found are violations of this rule.

6.0 Administrative Requirements

6.1 Test Methods

Compliance with the requirements of Section 5.0 shall be determined in accordance with the following test methods or their equivalents as approved by the EPA and the APCO:

6.1.1 Efficiency of VOC control device shall be determined by EPA Test Method 25 and analysis of halogenated exempt compounds shall be by ARB Method 422.

6.1.2 Where add-on control equipment is utilized, collection efficiency shall be determined by the EPA document "Model Regulatory Language for Capture Efficiency Testing," August 3, 1990.

6.2 Recordkeeping

Any operator subject to Section 5.0 of this rule shall:

6.2.1 Maintain records of the type and location of each wastewater separator.

6.2.2 Record the date of inspections pursuant to Section 5.5.

6.2.3 Maintain required records for at least five years and made available to the APCO, ARB, and EPA upon request.