

**COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN**  
Updated May 2015

## **Electrification of New Irrigation Wells**

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) is providing information regarding the electrification of new agricultural irrigation wells with the District.

### **Electrification Process**

Electric motors do not require a Permit to Operate (PTO) or Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration (PEER) with the District. The District fully supports electrification of agricultural irrigation wells, and is happy to assist well-drilling operations and farmers to electrify irrigation systems. The District also recognizes the need to occasionally utilize an internal combustion (IC) engine to generate electricity while a power utility company extends the electric line to the new well location. In situations where an IC engine will be used for less than 60 days, IC engines registered through the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) may be used without the need to submit a permit or PEER application. However, if you know that it will take more than 60 days for electric utility to be connected to the electric motor, use of an IC engine will require a Permit or a PEER from the District.

### **Expedited Processing**

Farms subject to District permits must obtain an Authority to Construct (ATC) permit from the District in order to install and operate a new IC engine greater than 50 horsepower (continuous rating). The District has committed to expediting processing of ATC permit applications for these short-term generator installations, and **will issue these ATC permits within ten days** of receipt of a complete application, unless a public notice is triggered (larger engines only). Once the ATC permit has been issued by the District, the IC engine may be installed and operated.

Farms that are exempt from District permits require a District PEER for each engine greater than 50 horsepower (continuous rating). Farm owners and operators that qualify for the PEER program may **install and operate the engine prior to obtaining PEER registration**, provided the PEER application is filed prior to first operation of the new engine.

Please note, whether the engine requires an ATC permit or PEER, the emission requirements are identical. A newly-installed diesel-fired IC engine must be certified to the latest available tier standards. In most cases, the latest available tier is Tier 4.

However, a previous tier engine may be allowed if the District receives a written statement explaining how a Tier 4 engine is not available due to circumstances beyond the control of the owner/operator.

Farmers should be aware of whether their farm is large enough to trigger permitting requirements, or is small enough to allow the use of PEER. **If not, the District's Small Business Assistance (SBA)**

**office is also available to assist you with your permitting determinations and application submittals. You may contact an SBA engineer at (559) 230-5888.**

ATC permit application forms for agricultural operations and engines are found at the following web page: <http://www.valleyair.org/farmpermits/applications.htm> (look about two-thirds down the page).

PEER applications are found at the following website:

<http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/PEER/ApplicationForms.htm>

Please note, upon electrification and removal of a temporary IC engine, please contact the District in order to cancel your permit or PEER.

### **Well Drilling Engines**

On January 17, 2014, the Governor of California declared a state of emergency due to drought. Under this declaration, well drilling engines are exempt from having to meet Tier requirements and the need to have the equipment registered in the PERP, provided they submit CARB Form 40 – *Notification of Operation in an Emergency Event for Water Well Drilling and Water Pumping* within 24 hours of operation (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/perp/records.htm>). This form must be submitted each time the equipment is moved and operated. This requirement only applies to those engines not currently registered in CARB PERP. For those engines that are registered, the operator needs to continue to comply with the registration conditions.

For additional information on emergency operation of water-well drilling rigs during the drought state of emergency visit: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/waterwelldrillrigs.htm>

To speak to a PERP information contact at CARB, call (916) 324-5869 or e-mail at [portable@arb.ca.gov](mailto:portable@arb.ca.gov)

### **Additional Help**

Please call one of these District **Small Business Assistance (SBA)** hotlines for assistance with any questions regarding this Compliance Assistance Bulletin:

**Modesto Office: 209-557-6446**

**Fresno Office: 559-230-5888**

**Bakersfield Office: 661-392-5665**

Please also visit the District's website at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) for additional information about the District. Thank you.