



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
August 2007

Important Information About Operation of Emergency Standby Engines During Electrical Power Curtailments

Several operators of emergency standby engines have approached the District in recent months to inquire about the legality of powering their facility with their engine/generator(s) under non-emergency conditions. These operators have been solicited by their local utility, the Independent Systems Operator (ISO), or some intermediate entity, and offered monetary compensation for operating their engines at times when the state's electrical power supply is expected to lag behind power demand. A few operators have already signed such contracts.

Operating emergency standby engines under such conditions is specifically prohibited by our regulations, and therefore is **not** legal. To operate under conditions other than emergency (defined as involuntary loss of power to your facility), your Air Pollution Control District permit must be modified to **specifically** allow operation during "voluntary curtailment" or "demand relief" programs. In order to qualify for such operation, your engine must meet more stringent emissions controls than currently required by your permit and will require the installation of costly exhaust treatment equipment. If you would like to modify your permit appropriately, contact your regional Small Business Assistance at one of the offices listed below.

Operation of emergency standby engines under demand relief or voluntary curtailment programs of any kind, without first obtaining and complying with the appropriate permit requirements, is illegal and subject to fines or civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day.

Please note that, because demand for electricity peaks on the hottest days of the summer – the same conditions that cause air pollution problems – operation of these engines under a demand relief program causes increases in smog-causing pollutants on the very worst air pollution days of the year. In addition, diesel combustion emissions are known to be especially toxic and harmful to human health, and increases in these pollutants during these stagnant weather conditions creates the potential to cause serious health hazards.

Small Business Assistance

Modesto Office 209-557-6446 Fresno Office 559-230-5888 Bakersfield Office 661-326-6969