



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
March 2014

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. However, such use of an IC engine requires a Permit or a Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration (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 Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration (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

Owners or Operators of portable IC engines 50 horsepower and greater powering **well drilling equipment** must register those units under the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) or under Rule 2280 (Portable Equipment Registration) with the District. A state PERP allows operation of the equipment throughout California without having to obtain individual stationary source construction and operating permits from local air districts, while a District portable registration allows operation of the equipment throughout the District without having to obtain individual stationary source construction and operating permits.

Please utilize the following website for information and applications regarding the state PERP: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/portable.htm>

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

Please utilize the following website for information and applications regarding the District Rule 2280 portable registration: <http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/regis.htm>

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 for additional information about the District. Thank you.