

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Notice of Public Workshop

Proposed Rule 1445 – Control of Toxic Emissions from Laser and Plasma Arc Metal Cutting

August 28, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Webinar Meeting – from PC or Laptop

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/91059006846>

Zoom Webinar ID: 910 5900 6846

Teleconference Dial In +1 669 900 6833

(Please note if the Zoom webinar link provided does not work, copy the link into web browser, or directly enter the webinar ID into the Zoom web or mobile application)

The Public Workshop will be conducted via video conferencing (Zoom) which can be accessed via your computer or smart phone. Alternatively, stakeholders can phone in to participate. We understand that this is not the same as an in-person public meeting; however, staff will take the time to listen to comments from all stakeholders. You are invited to attend the meeting electronically through Zoom or the phone. Instructions on how to participate can be found at the top of this notice.

Purpose of This Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled a Public Workshop to present and solicit information and suggestions from the public on Proposed Rule 1445 – Control of Toxic Emissions from Laser and Plasma Arc Metal Cutting (PR 1445) which is scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on November 1, 2024 (subject to change).

Background

Laser and plasma arc metal cutting processes create fumes and smoke from vaporizing molten metal. The generated fumes can contain toxic metal particulates, including nickel and hexavalent chromium, depending on the composition of the metal being cut. Under Assembly Bill 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. of 2017, Ch. 136), South Coast AQMD staff has worked collaboratively with community members to identify air quality issues and develop Community Emission Reduction Plans (CERPs) for designated overburdened communities. Some communities have identified toxic emissions from metal processing facilities (including metal cutting) as an air quality priority in their CERPs. Additionally, reducing toxic metal particulates from laser and plasma arc cutting operations has been included as an air toxics control measure from the 2016 South Coast AQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

Proposed Rule and Objectives

PR 1445 will reduce toxic metal particulate emissions from laser and plasma arc cutting equipment by establishing air pollution control device and parametric monitoring requirements. PR 1445 also includes measures to minimize the release of fugitive emissions.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and South Coast AQMD’s certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l) and South Coast AQMD Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency is currently reviewing the proposed project (PR 1445) to determine if it will result in any potential adverse environmental impacts. Appropriate CEQA documentation will be prepared based on the analysis.

Available Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents will be made available on or before August 16, 2024:

- Preliminary Draft of PR 1445; and
- Preliminary Draft Staff Report for PR 1445

To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents

Copies of the preliminary draft proposed rule and the preliminary draft staff report may be obtained from:

Derrick Alatorre/Public Advisor
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2432
Email: PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov

The documents will also be available for download from the South Coast AQMD website at:
<https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules/rule-1445>

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the public workshop. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Gov't Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated, unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact Kalam Cheung at (909) 396-3281 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to kcheung@aqmd.gov.

Key Contacts for Submitting Questions and Comments

Attendees are invited to ask questions and make comments during the Public Workshop. Questions, comments, documents, studies, reports, or other relevant information may also be directed to:

PR 1445:
Danielle Collado
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Staff requests written comments on PR 1445 be submitted no later than September 12, 2024.