



TACB Bulletin

6330 HWY. 290 EAST AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723 512/451-5711 FEBRUARY 1981

TACB REQUESTS SUIT AGAINST ASPHALT PLANT

The TACB has requested the Attorney General to file a lawsuit against Angleton Asphalt Corp., 820 South Front Street, Angleton, for violations of the Texas Clean Air Act and TACB Regulation I.

The certification for legal action seeks statutory penalties and injunctive relief because evidence indicates the company has allowed emissions from its plant to exceed standards for particulate matter and visible emissions from an enclosed facility established by TACB regulations and provisions of the company's construction permit.

HEARING SLATED ON KEOWN PERMIT

A contested case hearing is scheduled, March 4, in Conroe to consider whether to grant a construction permit to Keown Supply Co. for a drum-mix asphalt concrete plant near the intersection of 19th Street and the Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way in Conroe. The hearing is set to begin at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Conroe City Hall, 505 W. Davis. (Enter at the east entrance.)

BOARD ADOPTS BUBBLE POLICY

At its February meeting, the Air Control Board adopted an alternate emissions reduction policy that will allow the Executive Director to approve certain co-called "bubble" applications.

The new rule will allow industry flexibility to meet a total emissions limit on the affected property by controlling emissions from sources other than those specified in state implementation plan (SIP) retrofit requirements adopted on or after March 30, 1979.

Alternate emissions reductions proposed under the rule must be substantially equivalent to SIP requirements in terms of quantity, character, air quality impacts including health and welfare effects, and the area affected.

As recommended by the Board's Regulation Development Committee, the rule allows applicants credit for emissions reductions from facilities shut down recently. Another option the Committee considered would have accepted only emissions reductions from operating facilities or those shut down voluntarily after adoption of the rule.

In other action, the Board approved four contracts totaling more than \$1,300,000, to gather information to support development of the 1982 SIP for Harris County. The purpose of the contracts is to:

- determine methods to further reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from stationary sources in Harris County, which are needed to satisfy U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for SIP revisions for ozone nonattainment areas unable to meet the standard by 1982. (Contractor: Radian Corp.)
- evaluate the sensitivity of a photochemical dispersion model to variations of source emissions and to variations in the input data, particularly as they apply in the Harris County air shed. (Contractor: Radian Corp.)
- perform a six-site ambient air pollutant monitoring program and meteorological field study in the Harris County area during the 1981 ozone season, May 1 through Oct. 31. (Contractor: Radian Corp.)

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--perform an airborne air quality and aerometric sampling program, also in Harris County during the 1981 ozone season, to collect data for use in analysis of photochemical pollutants. (Contractor: Engineering Science)

A fifth contract, not to exceed \$100,000, was approved to evaluate the butanol-reference method for quantifying ambient odorant intensities. About two thirds of the complaints received by the TACB last year concerned odors. (Contractor: Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, Texas A&M University)

All contracts were approved contingent upon expected funding by the EPA. The funds are part of one-time monies awarded the TACB in its fiscal year 81 grant from the EPA.

The Board also affirmed the Executive Director's action in issuing a construction permit to PetroUnited, Inc., for three 25,000 barrel and four 12,500 barrel tanks for the storage of crude butyls at its existing facility in the Bayport Industrial Complex. To further reduce emissions, special provisions were added to the permit specifying that the tanks be painted white and filled from the bottom.

The Executive Director announced:

--the 74th Annual Meeting & Exhibition of the Air Pollution Control Association (APCA) to be held June 21-26 at the Philadelphia Civic Center.

--the retirement of Andy Wheatley, Control Strategy Division Director, and presented him with a 10-year service award.

The Board scheduled meetings March 20 and April 24.

**STUDY CONTINUES
ON FEE SYSTEM**

The TACB staff continues to look for an equitable permits fee system related to the amount of review time spent on an application and will bring more detailed cost information to the Board's ad hoc Permits Fee Committee in March.

The Committee was told, Feb. 13, that a previously suggested system based on capital costs showed too little correlation between the cost of a project and time spent reviewing an application. The capital costs system had been suggested as the most likely way of keeping assessment of permit fees as simple as possible. The Texas Clean Air Act requires that any permits fee system be sufficient to cover the reasonable costs of review and enforcing the terms and conditions of the permit.

**TACB, H-GAC
SIGN AGREEMENT**

An agreement concerning transportation/air quality planning activities related to the 1982 SIP for Harris County recently was completed between the TACB and the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The agreement covers activities in emissions inventory development, public participation and consultation, and development of the mobile source portion of the 1982 SIP. Stationary sources of ozone precursors have received inventory questionnaires and instructions, and computer programs are being prepared for the data. H-GAC personnel have completed most of the work for the inventory of mobile source emissions.

**WORKSHOPS HELD
ON QUESTIONNAIRE**

The TACB held a series of six workshops during February to discuss completion of the 1980 emissions inventory questionnaire, due to be submitted March 31. The workshops, which attracted industrial representatives primarily, were held in Clute, Houston, Beaumont, Dallas, Austin, and Amarillo.