

Air Pollution Limit Tightened

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SALINAS — Tougher air pollution regulations are in store not only for PG&E's Moss Landing power plant and other industries, but also for Mr. Average Citizen.

The amount of pollutants allowed from the two large smokestacks at the Moss Landing plant, which contributes to a "Yellow smudge" across Monterey Bay, was sharply limited Monday by the Monterey-Santa Cruz County Air Pollution Control Board.

The limits may be lowered some more. It was cut from 500 parts per million of nitrogen oxides to 150 parts per million. Some APCD members want to lower it to 100 ppm. Nitrogen oxides are the chief cause of the yellow smudge, experts say.

Before forcing PG&E to meet the strictest levels, the APCD wants to see how tests of new flue air recirculation systems work out in cutting pollution levels from the smokestacks.

Now it's the average citizen's turn to join the anti-pollution fight by making some sacrifices, too, the APCD said in effect.

The APCD proposes to ban almost all backyard burning by 1973, as well as other types of burning. A public hearing on the backyard burning ban was set for May 10 at 2 p.m. in the Santa Cruz County courthouse.

"People contribute a lot to air pollution, but they are prone

to place the blame elsewhere," said Earl Moser of the APCD's advisory board. "If these regulations make you and me and everyone sacrifice a little bit, it will be good for the cause of clean air."

Outdoor burning spews about 12 tons of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere each day, and about 5 tons of "particulates," or ash, according to Moser.

That's about 9.2 per cent of the total hydrocarbon pollutants and about 14 per cent of the particulates going into the air in the Monterey Bay area, Moser said. As industries such as Kaiser and Pacific Cement and Aggregates cut their pollution levels, "this percentage will go much higher" as the chief cause of pollution.

Not all outdoor burning would be prohibited by the ban. Most agricultural burning would be exempted from the rules. Farmers could burn crop wastes, use fires for brush control, and for other uses such as collection of honey from beehives. But burning of plastics or oil burning of roadsides and ditchbanks would be prohibited.

Special types of burning, such as fires used for fire-fighting instruction, or to get rid of waste inflammable gas, would be allowed.

Cooking fires or "recreational" fires would be legal.

Fires to burn backyard trash and rubbish would be legal only until 1973, unless no weekly trash pickup service is available.

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