

2/11/82 - SC Sentinel

# Lone Star Plant Is Under Fire

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL

Sentinel Staff Writer

The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District has filed a lawsuit against Lone Star Industries Inc. for alleged air pollution violations at its Davenport cement plant.

The cement plant also is under fire from the county for allegedly not meeting some conditions in the use permit issued for the plant's recently-completed \$74 million expansion.

Supervisor Gary Patton met with Davenport area residents Wednesday night to discuss the apparent problems facing the Lone Star facility.

The 50-plus citizens in attendance also expressed their views on noise from the plant, a planned new water system for the area and a plan to construct a large sewage lagoon between the cement plant and Newtown.

The Air Pollution Control District in early December filed a lawsuit in Santa Cruz County Municipal Court claiming that the new plant committed five violations of air quality standards.

Patton, who serves on the Air Pollution Control District Board, told the audience that these alleged violations also are violations of the county use permit since the permit incorporates every law of the Air Pollution Control District.

Dennis Kash, regional president of Lone Star Industries, told the crowd that Lone Star refused to pay three fines levied by the Air Pollution Control District because the company believes the fines are unwarranted.

"In an effort to collect the fines, they took us to court," Kash explained.

And in a letter to county Planning Director Kris Schenk, Ralph Mitchell, Lone Star's regional environmental and resources manager, states that "the alleged violations are associated with the old plant facilities and not the new plant."

Mitchell told The Sentinel today that the plant was cited during a period when the new facilities had been started up for

SEE BACK PAGE

## LONE STAR

FROM PAGE 1

testing, but when parts of the old plant still were being used.

Part of the recent expansion includes an elaborate air pollution control system designed to significantly cut down on cement dust emissions.

One member of the audience commented that the dust has greatly decreased since the new plant was completed.

The cement plant recently shut down after parts of the air pollution control system were damaged in the Jan. 4 storm, Kash said. The plant is expected to resume full operation by April.

The county also claims Lone Star didn't meet conditions involving construction of a new water system and sewer system for both sections of Davenport.

The Board of Supervisors on Feb. 23 will hold a public hearing on these and several other alleged violations of the use permit.

According to a letter from Schenk to supervisors, Lone Star failed to meet a condition stating it must "design and construct" a new water filtration, treatment and distribution system before using the new coal-fired kiln.

Lone Star began using its new facilities late last summer under what Mitchell termed a testing program.

Mitchell, in his letter to Schenk, claims Lone Star has met all its financial commitments on the water project and "has no further obligation on this project."

Construction on the new water system has not yet begun.

The use permit also states that Lone Star shall pay the local share of a federal/state Clean Water Grant for a new sewage collection and treatment system in both parts of Davenport before it begins using coal and operating the new kiln. The county claims this condition also hasn't been met.

Lone Star's share of the \$800,000 sewer project is \$50,000. In his letter, Mitchell states that "to date approximately \$7,000 has been disbursed. No other demands for disbursement have been made."

He blames delays in the sewer project on the time needed for grant processing and on problems the county has had with its consultant on the project.

Plans for the sewer project recently were changed after Lone Star announced it planned to stop its disposal of slurry and could no longer plan to mix sewage with the slurry.

The new proposal is to build a lagoon on Lone Star property between the cement plant and Newtown where sewage will be disposed and treated before being used by Lone Star in its cooling process.

Some Newtown residents Wednesday night expressed displeasure with the plan, fearing the lagoon will cause strong odors.

Residents also complained of noises coming from the plant. The county also claims Lone Star hasn't met noise reduction requirements in its use permit.

Mitchell, however, states in his letter that the plant is meeting the requirements and that a noise consultant will do a study when the new plant is completed.