

3-25-69

Air Pollution Board Rule A U.S. 'First'

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

The nation's first controls on one type of air pollution, and other controls aimed at the Pacific Gas and Electric Company generating plant at Moss Landing were adopted by the Monterey Bay's anti-smog agency Monday.

Members of the Monterey-Santa Cruz Air Pollution Control Board (APCD) declared all industries in the two counties must meet the regulations by September 1 or seek a legal variance.

PG&E officials said they can meet the deadline. However, oil company representatives from the San Ardo oilfield in southern Monterey County said they might be forced into seeking a variance.

Technically, the regulations forbid industries to put out more than 500 parts of nitrogen oxides per million parts of air (ppm). Nitrogen oxides are formed by the heat of combustion, and are part of the "yellow plume" seen coming from PG&E's smokestacks. The other regulations limit the amount of sulphur in smoke to two-tenths of a per cent, and also limits the amount of sulphur contained in fuel oil for burning.

The nitrogen oxide regulations are a national "first" and may become a standard, APCD Officer Ed Munson said.

Anti-smog forces want to eliminate the "yellow plume" of pollution coming from Moss Landing.

Representatives of SCOPE, the Western Outdoors Club, and

the Monterey Citizens for Clean Air all urged strict controls.

John Sproul, senior PG&E attorney, said his firm is working to get rid of the plume. "We are hopeful and reasonably optimistic the yellow cloud will go away," Sproul said.

APCD Board Chairman Russ McCallie of Santa Cruz commented the new regulations "provide no absolute guarantee they will remove the plume." But he said PG&E has pledged to get rid of it, and "I'm sure this board won't settle for anything less."

In short, the APCD made it clear it will adopt stricter regulations if necessary. Munson said the controls can be reviewed next January to see if they have worked.

There were single dissenting votes on each of the new regulations, called rules 404, 410 and 411. Rule 404 covered the 550 ppm of nitrogen oxides and Warren Church of Monterey County said he favored a stricter 350 ppm level. Munson recommended against it because it might mean a court test, and PG&E might also have to ask for a variance from the rule.

Dan Forbus of Santa Cruz voted against Rule 410 because it limits the amount of sulphur in fuel oil. He said the control board should simply set standards for pollutants going into the air rather than telling a company what kind of fuel it can burn. Rule 411 cancels Rule 410 if the sulphur pollutants are taken out of the smokestacks before they go into the air.

Nixon Will Seek

S

Wa
Nixon
Wed
cent
anoth
action
flation

Th
Sena
ett M
Lead
ing
conf

Ni
spec
tinua
and
the
infla