

# Pollution Controllers To Study Emission Of Particles Into Air

Particulate matter will be the subject of an extensive study by the Monterey-Santa Cruz Joint Air Pollution Control advisory committee, it was decided Monday at a Salinas meeting.

The action follows a request by the Air Pollution Control Board earlier this year.

The committee named a special study group, headed by James Demetry of Monterey, to begin the study of regulations to control particulate emissions in the air pollution control district.

It is expected that the study may take a year because of the wide field of industrial and agricultural complications. The proposed controls will affect lumber mill burning, batching plants, cement production, and numerous other activities in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

Chairman Charles Kramer appointed a six-man committee for the study, including Demetry, N. Manfred Shaffer of Santa Cruz, Franklin Robertson of Scotts Valley, Joe Richards of Watsonville, E. H. Abele and H. P. Freguson of Salinas.

Kramer also urged all members of the 20-man advisory committee to attend the subcommittee sessions and take part in the program.

In his report to the advisory committee, Air Pollution Control Officer Ed Munson said:

"The significance of particulate emissions should not be minimized, as particulate matter plays an important role in air pollution. In most areas such emissions represent a major portion of the total quantity of air contaminants released into the atmosphere, and would be important for their soiling and nuisance factors alone, if for no other. However, they have been incriminated as a vehicle for the transport of toxic gases and liquids and of course are noted for their visibility reduction properties. In some instances, this latter item is of more immediate concern than is the former more serious one."

In discussing the study, Munson gave board members copies of air pollution control district

regulations on the control of particulates from the Los Angeles, Riverside and Bay Area districts to aid in the program.

Kramer praised PG&E for its successful reduction of oxides of nitrogen emissions at the Moss Landing plant, as did Russ McCallie, chairman of the parent air pollution control board (see story below).

Also coming in for congratulations were Munson, the district's air pollution control officer, and Howard Linnard, consultant from the state air resources board.

Kramer also praised the Standard Oil Company and Atlantic Richfield for changing their fuel oil contracts with PG&E to aid in the reduction of sulfur discharges at the PG&E plant.

Bob Bannister, Moss Landing superintendent for the utility, reported on the control program at the huge steam plant. He said that by reducing excess oxygen in the boilers plus eliminating the firing of the top eight burners in the huge new boilers, the nitrogen emissions had been reduced to from 63 to 178 ppm while burning natural gas.

## APCD Chief Hails PG&E's Progress Against Pollution

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Moss Landing power plant has made "astounding progress" in air pollution control, Russ McCallie, chairman of the Monterey-Santa Cruz Air Pollution Control District (APCD) said Monday.

McCallie said the latest checks of PG&E's steam boilers show its nitrogen oxide emissions — the chief source of the "yellow cloud" which used to come from the plant's smokestacks — have been cut to a level far below the APCD regulations.

The bi-county APCD adopted the nation's first controls on nitrogen oxide emissions about a month ago.

The APCD advisory board,

He estimated that fuel oil burning would produce emissions in the 200 ppm range while on full load. The 15-day test this month was on a reduced load, but Bannister said he believed the emissions would be in the 200 ppm range at full load.

He added that in July new automatic testing equipment will be in operation at the plant to provide even better information.

Linnard and Munson reviewed the air quality report recently issued by the board, following a two-year study. The report states:

"Monterey County and a considerable portion of Santa Cruz County have relatively pollution-free air. During the two-year study period three adverse oxidant days, as defined by the State of California's Department of Public Health's air quality standards, were found in Monterey County. In Santa Cruz County two adverse days were found in the City of Santa Cruz and four adverse days were found at Loma Prieta School (near the boundary line be-

tween Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties) during September, 1968, when sampling was begun there. No other pollutant was found to have a concentration exceeding state standards."

Linnard also reported that the state is reviewing its air quality standards and more strict regulations would have found slightly more adverse conditions in the Monterey Bay area.

The study also showed some damage to Monterey and Ponderosa pines in Santa Cruz County as well as to some grapes in vineyards in the Loma Prieta area.

It is believed the Santa Cruz problem is caused by air flow bringing pollutants from the San Jose area and also on occasion down the coast from the San Francisco Bay area.

Planning Directors Bert Muhly of Santa Cruz County and Ed DeMars of Monterey County attended the session held at the Monterey County Health Department facilities as newly-named ex-officio members of the advisory committee.

headed by Charles Kramer, recommended the maximum output be set at 500 parts of nitrogen oxides for each million parts of air.

Nitrogen oxides are formed by chemical reaction when natural gas or fuel oil is burned to create steam.

McCallie said figures from Ed Munson, air pollution control officer, show virtually all of PG&E's burners now are below the critical level, and some new units have dropped the emission levels far lower than expected.

The old burners averaged from about 314 to 447 parts per million of oxides for the first week in April. The two new burners, numbers six and seven, emitted as low as 63

parts of pollutants and as high as 178. One of the new burners was shut down early in the month, but the other was monitored eight times daily.

"We realized," McCallie said, "that we were setting a set of strict, rigid standards which would be a precedent for air pollution control districts all over the country."

But, he added, the tests show PG&E has cut its emissions of nitrogen oxides "down to an almost unbelievably low figure."

The APCD chairman said he wanted to "commend PG&E for the way it has accepted its responsibility to keep the atmosphere clean in the Monterey Bay area. The company has gone far beyond what was required of it."