

# Air pollution Strict Anti-Smog Regulations Pass

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Strict anti-smog regulations were adopted here today aimed at eliminating the celebrated "brown plume" which periodically hangs over Monterey Bay.

The Monterey-Santa Cruz Air Pollution Control Board adopted a series of regulations limiting emissions from Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s big steam generating plant at Moss Landing, which causes the plume.

The new regulations go into effect Sept. 1.

With adoption of the regulations, the two-county district became the first in the nation to limit emissions of nitric oxide, which is formed by the combustion of natural gas at high temperatures.

The new regulation limits emissions of nitric oxide from the steam generating plant stacks to 500 parts per million.

Limiting emissions to 350 parts per million had been studied, but board members decided on the higher level with the idea that the regulations would be made stiffer if the brown plume isn't eliminated.

The regulations will come up for review annually by the board.

Board member Warren Church, a Monterey County representative on the board, cast the lone vote against the nitric oxide regulation.

Church said the district should start with the 350 parts per million figure.

The brown plume is caused by the combustion of nitric oxide with oxygen into the air to form nitrogen dioxide.

When PG&E's generating plant at first went into operation, tests showed that as much as 1,500 parts per million of nitric oxide had been emitting from the stacks.

PG&E subsequently has lowered the emission amount and has promised to eliminate the plume.

Board members, however, noted that last Wednesday and Thursday the plume was visible over the Bay and some inland areas.

They asked PG&E officials what the emission figure was on those days. Company officials said they didn't have the infor-

mation with them. PG&E has monitoring devices at the plant.

"I can't understand this at all," said board member Willard T. Branson. "You must have known this information would be very important to how we would make a decision here today."

John Sproel, attorney for PG&E, said emissions on any one day would not tell the story and reiterated the company's promise to eliminate the plume.

Edward W. Munson, air pollution control officer, said he checked with PG&E at the time and was told that the emission was "in excess of 500 (parts per million) and was in the range of 800."

The board also regulated emis-

sion of sulphur dioxide, formed by the combustion of sulphur-laden fuel oil.

PG&E uses fuel oil as a supplementary fuel at its Moss Landing plant.

This regulation drew opposition from oil companies operating in the San Ardo area.

These companies use fuel oil. Officials said the cost would be prohibitive if they had to switch to gas.

They noted that the cost of fuel low on sulphur content is also very expensive.

The oil companies came under fire from some board members because of the "oil sumps" near the oil fields.

Oil from the sumps overflowed during the disastrous floods last month, board members noted.