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MIRATECH Corporation Emissions Monitor *October 2009*



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California Proposes Five Measures to Reduce Railyard Emissions

On 9 September 2009 the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released a [list of recommendations](#) to further reduce railyard emissions beyond Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. The recommended options include repowers, retrofits with diesel particulate filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR), as well as accelerated introduction of Tier 4 locomotives.



Based on its Technical Options Document, CARB's [staff report](#) identified five locomotive measures as its highest priority options:

- Repower older switch locomotives in 2010 - 2012
- Repower older medium horsepower locomotives in 2011-2013
- Retrofit switch locomotives with DPF and SCR in 2012-2015
- Retrofit medium horsepower locomotives with DPF and SCR in 2012-2016
- Accelerate the introduction of Tier 4 line haul locomotives in 2015-2025

CARB says their proposals, when fully implemented, would reduce statewide locomotive Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions by about 30 percent by 2014 and by about 70 percent by 2020.

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EPA's Diesel Emission Quantifier Adds Health Benefits Tool

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Diesel Emissions Quantifier](#) (DEQ) is an interactive tool to help estimate emission reductions and cost effectiveness for clean diesel projects. Estimates are made by inputting specific information about a fleet.

In September 2009 EPA developed and added an additional component to the DEQ that allows the user to estimate the health benefits of the reduction in diesel emissions as a result of the selected technology. After entering a scenario, the Quantifier estimates emission reductions. Users can then click on "Continue to Health Benefits Module" to estimate the health benefits due to reductions in fine particulate matter of applying the selected technology.



DEQ and its Health Benefits Module helps those applying to EPA, or other Federal or state/local funding assistance programs prepare and submit diesel emissions data to EPA. EPA conducts periodic webinars on how to use the DEQ and posts [video/audio tutorial files](#) of its webinars on its Web site.

EPA Requires Large Polluters to Report GHG Emissions

On 23 September 2009 EPA [announced](#) it would require the nation's largest emitters of green house gases to begin tracking their emissions. Data collection will begin 1 January 2010, with disclosure required in the first quarter of 2011.

Key details about the new program include

- Applies to about 10,000 large emitters which represent about 85-percent of all the heat-trapping gases emitted in the United States.
- Sets a reporting threshold of 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. That's the approximate equivalent of 131 rail cars of coal or 58,000 barrels of oil.
- Businesses that emit less than 25,000 tons of emission per year are NOT covered. That means the rule does NOT apply to churches or schools.
- The rule will cover GHG's including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and other fluorinated gases.



EPA says its new reporting system will provide a better understanding of where GHGs are coming from and will guide development of the best possible policies and programs to reduce emissions.

More information on the new reporting system and reporting requirements is posted on EPA's [Web site](#).

Electric Utilities Quit U.S. Chamber over Climate Change Dispute

Two major electric utilities have recently withdrawn from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce over that business group's stance on pending climate change regulation. On 23 September 2009 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), a major utility serving northern California, [announced](#) it was withdrawing from the United States Chamber of Commerce. On 25 September 2009, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), that state's largest electric utility, [said](#) it was also leaving the U.S. Chamber.



In its blog under a posting titled, "[Irreconcilable Differences](#)" PG&E references a letter sent to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by PG&E Chairman and CEO Peter Darbee citing "fundamental differences" over climate change to explain why the company is pulling out of the organization, despite the Chamber's "long history as a positive force for America's businesses and its economy."

"Not everybody agrees on everything," says PNM spokesman Dan Brown. "But as the climate change debate has gone on, it has become clear to us that our position and the U.S. Chamber's position are not reconcilable. It doesn't make sense to us to be actively lobbying in D.C. for federal legislation at the same time that we're a member of an association that is aggressively opposing climate change legislation."

In the past several weeks, two high-profile companies - Duke Energy and Alstom - publicly gave up their membership in the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy in protest over its opposition to federal climate change legislation.

Other companies that similarly favor climate change legislation faced [uncomfortable questions](#) this summer over their memberships in similar groups that have mounted aggressive campaigns to defeat pending climate bills. Most responded to critics by pointing out that climate change is only one of many issues these organizations address.

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