



Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast

"Printers Working Together...Since 1920"

January 14, 2013

Via Electronic Filing

Charlotte Horn
MC 205
Office of Legal Services
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Failure to Attain Fee – TCEQ Rule Project Number 2009-009-101-AI

Dear Ms. Horn:

The Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast (PIGC) represents nearly 2,000 operations in the state of Texas engaged in the production of a wide variety of products through commercial lithographic and/or digital imaging technologies. As reported in the 2010 Print Market Atlas, approximately 80% of the operations employ less than 20 employees, and as such, the industry is comprised mostly of small businesses. However, there are larger printing facilities in the area, which may be considered major sources and subject to the Section 185 fee.

Overall, PIGC supports the proposed rule 2009-009-101-AI, and commends the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposing an offsetting of the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area nonattainment fee obligation with Texas Emissions Reduction Plan program and vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program revenue, which aligns with similar alternative programs adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Resources Board (Rule 3170) and South Coast Air Quality Management Division (Rule 317). The inclusion of this option reduces the financial burden on sources which are already heavily regulated and taxed. PIGC supports the adoption of the proposed rule, with the inclusion of the following recommendation:

The proposed rule as currently written does not include an exemption for well controlled, clean units. In order to promote the use of cleaner technology, and the reduction of emissions from major sources and industrial operations, we recommend the TCEQ include an exemption for clean units. The San Joaquin Rule 3170, which EPA approved

Phone: (713) 522-2046 • Fax: (713) 522-8342

Mailing Address: 9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 130, Houston, Texas 77092

in July 2011, includes such an exemption in Section 4.0 for clean emissions units, which are defined as the following:

“3.5 Clean Emissions Unit: an emissions unit that the APCO has determined meets one of the following criteria:

3.5.1 The unit is equipped with an emissions control technology with a minimum control efficiency of at least 95% (or at least 85% for lean burn, internal combustion engines); or

3.5.2 The unit is equipped with emission control technology that meets or exceeds the requirements for achieved-in-practice Best Available Control Technology as accepted by the APCO during the period from 2006 through 2010.”

In order to offset the revenue which would be collected by these exempt sources, we recommend the TCEQ consider including an additional option for collecting revenue which was adopted by the EPA approved San Joaquin Valley’s rule 3170, which collects revenue from increased motor vehicle registration fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles which are then forwarded to the Air Pollution Control Division as per the California Health and Safety Code sections 40610 – 40613.

With addition of an exemption for clean emission units, and revenue from mobile sources, the proposed rule will meet the requirements of the State Implementation Plan for EPA approval, while balancing economical demands to the industry.

Sincerely,

Patty Eldridge

Director
Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast