

**Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Air Quality Rule Concepts
Scheduled for Proposal on December 13, 2006**

TxLED Inclusion of Certain Marine Fuels Rule Revision

The proposed rule revisions would expand Title 30 TAC Chapter 114 to regulate additional fuel types. The rule revision would add marine distillate fuels commonly known as DMX and DMA, or Marine Gas Oil (MGO), into the definition of diesel fuels, requiring them to be TxLED compliant in the HGB nonattainment area. Currently only 1-D and 2-D diesel fuels are regulated under the TxLED rule. DMX, DMA, 1-D, and 2-D diesel fuels are all light distillates and share many fuel parameters. Many marine vessels that have traditionally operated on 1-D or 2-D diesel fuels have recently switched to DMA or DMX to avoid purchasing TxLED compliant fuels. Engine modifications are not necessary because the fuel parameters are so similar.

The grades of fuel that are to be included in this revision are normally only used by harbor craft vessels (e.g. crew and supply boats, charter fishing vessels, commercial fishing vessels, ferry/excursion vessels, pilot vessels, towboat or push boats, tug boats and work boats). Ocean-going vessels will not be included in these regulations because they typically use heavier marine residual fuels. This revision would maximize NO_x reductions in counties where further reductions are needed.

VOC Rule Concepts for HGB

The proposed rule changes in Title 30 TAC Chapter 115 Subchapter B, Division 1 for Storage of Volatile Organic Compounds and Subchapter F, Division 3 for Degassing or Cleaning of Stationary, Marine, and Transport Vessels would only affect sources in the 8-county HGB ozone nonattainment area.

The proposed storage tank rule revisions would require controls for slotted guide poles, revised controls for other fittings on floating roof tanks, and control requirements or operational limitations on landing floating roof tanks.

Other changes to storage tank rules would apply to tanks storing crude oil or natural gas condensate at production sites. These tanks are currently exempt from the Chapter 115 requirements if the tanks are less than 5000 barrels. Contemplated rule changes would eliminate this exemption so that crude oil and condensate tanks would be subject to the same requirements as tanks storing other volatile organic compounds. Flash emissions from these tanks would also be regulated and would be required to be recovered if economically feasible.

Changes to the degassing rules would require that vapors be vented to a control device until the VOC concentration drops to a defined value and remains at that value without the presence of dilution gas. Current rules allow vapors to be vented to atmosphere after four turnovers of the vapor space volume. Vapor controls may also be required for smaller tanks; the size cutoff is now one million gallons.