Air Quality Permitting for Biomass Facilities

- Policy Issues

Presented by:

Dave Warner
Permit Services Manager
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
The Permitting Process

Authority to Construct

Seyed Sadredin

San Joaquin Valley Unified APCD
New and Modified Source Review (NSR)

- BACT (Best Available Control Technology)
- Emission Offsets
BACT

• Best Available Control Technology
  – The best available control device or method to minimize emissions from an operation. Examples:
    • scrubbers
    • oxidizers (afterburners)
    • filters
  – Must be achieved in practice, or cost effective
  – Equivalent technologies allowed
Policy question:

• Should legislation and/or regulations require specific technologies, or
• Should environmental standards or limits be set (and then industry be allowed to figure out how to meet the standards)?
New and Modified Source Review (NSR)

- BACT (Best Available Control Technology)
- Emission Offsets
Emission Offsets

(mitigation of emission increases)

Existing source

Decrease in existing emissions

Result: No increase in emissions.

New or modified source

New emissions
Emission Offsets

Criteria for approval

• State and federal law says that emission reductions must be:
  – Real
  – Enforceable
  – Quantifiable
  – Permanent
  – Surplus of required reductions
Emission Offsets

• For biomass-burning power plants, emission offsets are contemporaneous:
  – Decrease in ag waste open burning
  – Used to mitigate emissions from power plant
Emission Offsets

• Recent Composting Proposal
  – 100’s of tons of emissions per year
  – Mitigate by using ag waste in compost (emissions from open burning will cease)
SB 705 (Florez)

Bans open burning of ag waste in the San Joaquin Valley:

- June 1, 2005 - for field crops, prunings, and weed abatement.
- June 1, 2007 - for orchard removals.
- June 1, 2010 - for other materials, vineyard removals, and surface harvested prunings.
Criteria for approval

- State and federal law says that emission reductions must be:
  - Real
  - Enforceable
  - Quantifiable
  - Permanent
  - Surplus of required reductions
Policy question:
Can emission reductions caused by reducing ag burning still be considered “surplus of required reductions”?
Contact me

(559) 230-5900

dave.warner@valleyair.org