

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

To: County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino, and Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse

From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1135 – Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Electricity Generating Facilities, and Proposed Rule 429.2 – Startup and Shutdown Exemption Provisions for Oxides of Nitrogen from Electricity Generating Facilities

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Rule 1135 regulates oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions from combustion equipment operating at electricity generating facilities. Proposed amendments to Rule 1135 will: 1) remove ammonia limits which will be addressed during permitting; 2) reference Proposed Rule 429.2 (PR 429.2) for startup and shutdown requirements; 3) add references to the recently amended and adopted Rule 218-series rules relating to requirements for Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS); and 4) revise the requirements for diesel internal combustion engines located on Santa Catalina Island. Other proposed amendments provide additional clarifications and continuity throughout the rule. PR 429.2 was developed to establish startup and shutdown requirements applicable to combustion equipment subject to Rule 1135. Specifically, PR 429.2 proposes to: 1) exempt electric generating units from Rule 1135 NO_x concentration limits during startup and shutdown events for specified durations; 2) limit the number of scheduled startup events; 3) establish best management practices during startup and shutdown events; and 4) establish recordkeeping requirements.

Lead Approving Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Lead Agency Carrying Out Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status: CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. Since no physical modifications are expected to occur as a result of the proposed project, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: January 7, 2022

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____

 January 7, 2022

Barbara Radlein
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