

Coalition For A Safe Environment

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April 8, 2008

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2007-0925
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460
C/O Ms. Kyndall Barry
barry.kyndall @epa.gov
202-343-9868

Re: Carbon Monoxide (CO) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)
Su: Draft Integrated Review Plan Public Comments

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee:

The Coalition For A Safe Environment (CFASE) is a non-profit Environmental Justice Organization involved in International Trade Ports, Goods Movement, Transportation, Energy and Petroleum Industry environmental, public health, public safety and socio-economic issues. CFASE is headquartered in Wilmington a predominantly Latino Environmental Justice Community in the City of Los Angeles and located in the Port of Los Angeles Harbor. Wilmington is further located in South Los Angeles County in the California South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The Coalition For A Safe Environment wishes to submit the following public comments, recommendations and requests regarding the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Draft Integrated Review Plan:

1. CASAC must conclude and recommend the most stringent Carbon Monoxide (CO) NAAQS to protect public health, public welfare and assure no significant public health impacts, no public health crisis exists or public health problem is developing in any community, city or region. The only acceptable public margin of safety is zero or near zero CO emissions.

The current CO NAAQS has failed to help decrease the increasing respiratory and cardio-pulmonary public health problems and public health disease crisis in many communities, cities and regions.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has failed to stop the public health crisis that currently exists which is the unacceptable annual increases in all categories of cancers and respiratory health problems. The CDC has failed to maintain close watch of new scientific evidence or act upon new scientific evidence.

Public welfare adverse impacts can be addressed if CASAC first establishes an accurate and complete inventory of what contributes to these negative adverse public health impacts as recommended in our comments.

Environmental Justice Organizations believe that the loss of one innocent life, the negative health affliction of one person is unacceptable if the cause is preventable and due to private or governmental business industries failure to adopt the Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) or Best Technologies which can achieve zero or near zero Co and toxic air emissions.

2. It is a fact that technology exists today to achieve zero or neat zero emissions. Polluting industries refuse to incorporate these technologies. The U.S. EPA has no legal mandate to allow air polluting industries both private and public to operate or continue to pollute and negatively impact public health. Every air polluting industry makes substantial profits to pay for the incorporation of clean technologies.
3. CASAC must consider that “Hot Spot Environmental Justice Communities” now have sensitive receptor populations of 50% - 80% based on public health surveys and medical data.
4. CASAC must consider the multiple public health impacts of Carbon Monoxide and the need for a stricter CO NAAQS in relationship to the cumulative impacts of public exposure to multiple toxic air pollutant emissions.
5. CASAC must consider recommending a more stringent national standard that takes into consideration that there are Hot Spot Environmental Justice Communities, in which a national standard does not stop their significant cumulative public health impacts. Environmental Justice Communities bare a significant disproportionate burden of CO exposure due to their multiple toxic industries and sources in their communities.
6. CASAC must consider that CO and other toxic air emissions are not decreasing in Environmental Justice Communities. The California South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and all other AQMD’s have failed to adopt adequate rules, regulations and standards that would prevent the increase of CO and significantly decrease public exposure to CO to zero or near zero.
7. CASAC must consider all available local and regional public health data in establishing its new CO NAAQS. Some public health data for example are based on public health surveys and not long term longitudinal scientific studies. The UCLA Medical Center at Harbor General Hospital in 2007 completed a Children’s Asthma Study in Wilmington and discovered that over 23.9% of all children have asthma. You would not find this data in any scientific or medical journal. Yet it is important data that should be taken into consideration because NAAQS’s have more significant impacts at the local and regional level.
8. CASAC must consider that in most “Hot Spot Environmental Justice Communities” Carbon Monoxide and toxic air pollution emissions are increasing every year not decreasing. CASAC must request data and forecasts of current industry growth and new industry sources of CO and toxic air pollution.

The Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach are estimated to triple their imported container business by the year 2020. Currently there are over 45,000 truck trips a day carrying containers and cargo out of the Ports, and in a recent Port sponsored Truck Traffic Study it is estimated that this will increase to over 100,000 truck trips a day by the year 2020. In addition, the number of bunker fuel ships, diesel fuel trains and diesel fuel cargo handling equipment will also triple. This also means that their amount of CO and toxic air emissions. In addition, there are 17 new proposed major Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach construction projects to be completed by the year 2020. The Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach both border the Environmental justice Community of Wilmington.

There are eight major oil refineries and three fuel storage tank facilities in South Los Angeles County located in the California South Coast Air Quality Management District. Six oil refineries and three fuel storage tank facilities are located in the Environmental Justice Communities of Wilmington and Carson all within eight miles of each other. There has been no significant decrease in CO in the past six years and all oil refineries have plans for expansion. In addition to their normal daily CO release, CO is also released during accidental and scheduled maintenance flaring. See attached photographs of oil refineries flaring.

Although flaring is considered a public safe guard, the real truth of the matter is that the petroleum industry refuses to invest in vapor recovery systems and gas storage tanks. Although there are rules and regulation prohibiting and limiting flaring, the real truth is that flaring in the South Coast Air Quality Management District and through-out the United States has been increasing every year. The so called accidental flaring releases hundreds if not thousands of tons of CO and other toxic emissions every week through-out the United States. Flaring and CO release is nearly 100% preventable.

The California South Coast Air Quality Management District is currently processing 11 new power plant applications. These new power plants will generate millions of tons of new Carbon Monoxide and other toxic air emissions that currently do not exist in Environmental Justice Communities.

9. CASAC must consider the actual number of people with public health problems and the types of health problems when developing the CO NAAQS. It is one thing to establish a standard, but another to put real human faces onto the numbers. The public health care and welfare system and the funds to support it is collapsing and causing a financial crisis in the State of California. Every major county hospital and clinic in and near Environmental Justice Communities have had significant medical doctors, medical staff and medical services cutbacks in the last several years.

As an example, the financial impact of public health care from Particulate Matter and Ozone due to Ports and Goods Movement was estimated to be \$ 19 billion in California. CO public health costs have not been determined for the other many other toxic air pollutants.

We request that CASAC establish a Public Health Baseline by number of afflicted people, health problem, disease and demographic data. Without a Public Health Baseline it is impossible to know if an established or proposed CO NAAQS has been adequate to protect public health and welfare. The Public Health Baseline should be based on comprehensive Public Health Survey Data.

We request that your CO NAAQS research include an assessment of public health and welfare short term temporary and long term mental and physical disabilities. We request that you include children learning disabilities in the assessment study. We request that you include public health socio-economic impacts in the assessment study.

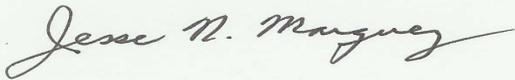
10. CASAC must consider not only the CO air pollution emissions public health impacts, but also quantify aerial deposition of Carbon Monoxide on human drinking water, agricultural land and livestock which increases the amount of public exposure to toxic chemical emissions as the public drinks water daily and consumes food daily.
11. CASAC must consider the global warming and climate change impact of CO and CO₂ on public health, human drinking water, agricultural land, biological wildlife habitats and the environment. It is a fact that Carbon Monoxide (CO) becomes Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) over time.

Climate change is decreasing fresh water supplies, contaminating fresh water supplies, destroying agricultural food crops and historical agricultural product lands through-out California and the United States. In 2007 California experienced a new record of the most wildfires in a year. The number of wildfires is increasing every year, therefore significantly increasing the amount of natural CO.

12. CASAC must consider areas and regions in the U.S. such as the South Los Angeles County San Pedro Bay the home of Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach where there are atmospheric air inversion layers which lower the atmospheric levels, thus causing a higher concentration of toxic air emissions and higher percentage of public health impacts in one area or region which would not necessarily occur throughout a large region or state.
13. CASAC must consider areas and regions which are subject to micro climatic changes due to major CO, other toxic air polluting industries, heat and steam cloud generating industries. There is at least one study which has shown that a major oil refinery can in fact cause micro climatic changes where they are located due to their heat footprint and immense steam generated clouds. This climatic change is a contributor to an increase in public health problems that is being unrecognized and unaccounted for.
14. Request CASAC accelerate its current review schedule and change its final review date by the year 2010 and not 2011 as proposed. The public supports the early completion of this CO NAAQS study and determination of a new stricter CO NAAQS. There is current litigation pending against the U.S. EPA Administrator in which the U.S. EPA has failed to disclose on its website which will require final rule making to be completed in the year 2011. The U.S. EPA has admitted its guilt and failure to comply with the Clean Air Act. The courts will more than likely rule in favor of the litigants due to the failure of U.S. EPA to complete CO NAAQS rulemaking for the past 14 years. The Coalition For A Safe Environment is one of the litigants.
15. Request CASAC add new public interests expert scientific, medical and technical organization members to its advisory committee. CFASE recommends USC Kerk School of Medicine, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Union of Concerned Scientists, American Lung Association and Communities for a Better Environment.

16. Request CASAC to revise and request that its Schedule for the Current Review to indicate Public Comment Review and Comment Periods. Request that Public Review and Comment Periods be a minimum of 90 days.
17. Request that CASAC hold and request a Public Review and Comment Period after the Risk/Exposure Assessment Final document.
18. Request that CASAC and the U.S.EPA hold a regional public hearing in Los Angeles and in every in every city where there is a significant public health problem due to CO and toxic air emissions exposure.
19. Request that CASAC release its information not only through the federal register but through all U.S.EPA Regional offices and state regulatory agencies public mail and email listservs and public news media outlets which distribute information to the public for free at no expense to EPA.
20. Request that CASAC ask U.S. EPA assign adequate staff to meet requested accelerated evaluation and review schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light green background. The signature reads "Jesse N. Marquez" in a cursive script.

Jesse N. Marquez
Executive Director

Photograph Attachments



ConocoPhillips Oil Refinery Wilmington California Flaring

September 12, 2005

Borders Wilmington - San Pedro - Harbor City (Wilmington South View)



ConocoPhillips Oil Refinery Wilmington California Flaring

October 23, 2003

Borders Wilmington - Harbor City - San Pedro (Wilmington West Sunset View)



Tesoro (Shell) Oil Refinery Wilmington California Flaring

September 12, 2005

Borders Wilmington - Long Beach - Carson (Long Beach West View)



Valero Oil Refinery Wilmington California Flaring

September 12, 2005

Borders Wilmington - Long Beach (Wilmington Northeast View)