

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Notice of Public Availability of Modified Text

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF REGULATION FOR
REDUCING SULFUR HEXAFLUORIDE EMISSIONS FROM GAS INSULATED
SWITCHGEAR

Public Hearing Date: February 25, 2010
Public Availability Date: September 9, 2010
Deadline for Public Comment: September 24, 2010

At its February 25, 2010, public hearing, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) adopted Resolution 10-1 approving the adoption of new sections 95350, 95351, 95352, 95353, 95354, 95355, 95356, 95357, 95358 and 95359, title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The proposed regulation requires owners of gas insulated switchgear (GIS) to establish an initial, maximum emission rate of ten percent of their nameplate capacity of sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) by January 1, 2012. GIS owners will be required to annually reduce SF₆ emission rates by one percent over the following nine-year period. The maximum emission rate in 2020 would be set at one percent.

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.8, the Board directed the Executive Officer to adopt title 17, CCR, sections 95350 through 95359, with the modifications identified in Resolution 10-1, and other such conforming modifications as may be appropriate, after making the modified language and any additional supporting documents available to the public for a comment period of fifteen days. Resolution 10-1 and other regulatory documents for this rulemaking action are available online at the following ARB website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2010/sf6elec/sf6elec.htm>

The Board also directed the Executive Officer to consider such written comments as may be submitted during this period, to make such modifications as may be appropriate in light of the comments received, and to present the regulations to the Board for further consideration if the Executive Officer determines that it is warranted.

Summary of Proposed Modifications

The staff's proposed modifications to the originally proposed regulation are summarized below and are set forth in detail in Attachment 1 to this notice. All references to sections 95351, 95353, 95354, 95355, and 95356 are to title 17, CCR. The following summary does not include modifications to correct typographical or grammatical errors, changes in numbering or formatting; nor does it include all of the nonsubstantive revisions made to improve clarity. For a complete account of all modifications in the proposed regulations, please refer to underline and strikeout sections in Attachment 1.

A. Modifications to section 95351. Definitions.

In response to public comments, the definitions for the terms “active GIS equipment,” “emergency event,” “emission rate,” “executive officer,” and “hermetically sealed gas insulated switchgear” have been amended for clarity.

B. Modifications to section 95353. Emergency Event Exemption.

In response to public comments, the emergency event exemption was modified so that it may be requested from the Executive Officer throughout the regulatory period, rather than beginning January 1, 2020.

C. Modifications to section 95354. SF₆ Inventory Measurement Procedures.

The effective date of the requirement to develop procedures (January 1, 2011) has been added for clarity.

In response to public comments, the requirement in subsection (a)(1) to weigh containers as they enter and leave storage has been removed. Additionally, subsection (a)(2) has been amended to clarify that scale manufacturers are responsible for certifying scale accuracy.

D. Modifications to section 95355. Recordkeeping.

The effective date of the requirement to establish and maintain a GIS equipment inventory (January 1, 2011) has been added for clarity.

The first sentence of subsection (a) has been amended to clarify that the inventory information must address individual pieces of GIS equipment.

In response to public comments, new subsections (a)(8) and (a)(9) have been added to require recordkeeping for the amount of SF₆ transferred into and out of active GIS.

Consistent with proposed amendments to section 95354 (a)(1), the subsection (b)(4) requirement for a chronological accounting of SF₆ transfers from containers has been amended; and the subsection (b)(5) requirement to record SF₆ residual within containers has been deleted.

E. Modifications to section 95356. Annual Reporting Requirements.

In response to public comments, the effective date for submitting annual reports in subsection (a) has been changed from 2011 to 2012.

The cross references to section 95355 in subsections (b)(8) and (b)(9) have been amended to be consistent with numbering changes made to section 95355.

References to the “ARB Greenhouse Gas Reporting Tool” in subsections (c)(1) and (c)(2) have been expanded to include “other mechanisms.” The reference to title 17, California Code of Regulations, section 95104(e) has been amended to more broadly reference all of section 95104.

In response to public comments: 1) the phrase “non-hermetically sealed” in subsection (d) has been changed to “active” to be consistent with the proposed definition for “active GIS;” 2) the term “operated” has been corrected to reference “owned” GIS equipment; and 3) the phrase “or other entities” has been added to the list of bulk SF₆ supply sources.

Because the term “nameplate capacity” is defined in the definitions section of the regulation, the parenthetical “note” in the last sentence of subsection (d) has been deleted.

Availability of the Modified Regulatory Language

By this notice, the modified regulatory language (Attachment 1 to this notice) is being made available for public comment prior to final action by the Board’s Executive Officer.

Written comments will only be accepted on the modifications identified in this notice, and may be submitted by postal mail or electronic mail as follows:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engine.

In order to be considered by the Executive Officer, comments must be directed to ARB in one of the two forms described above and received by ARB by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date for public comment listed at the beginning of this notice. Only comments relating to the above-described modifications to the text of the regulations will be considered by the Executive Officer.

If you need this document in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print, etc.) or another language, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 no later than five (5) business days from the release date of this notice. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Si necesita este documento en un formato alterno (por decir, sistema Braille, o en impresión grande) u otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Secretario del Consejo de Recursos Atmosféricos al (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax al (916) 322-3928 no menos de cinco (5) días laborales a partir de la fecha del lanzamiento de este aviso. Para el Servicio Telefónico de California para Personas con Problemas Auditivos, ó de teléfonos TDD pueden marcar al 711.

Attachment

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see ARB's website at www.arb.ca.gov.