

 <p><b>Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District</b></p>	<b>Case No / Date</b>	<b>2017-09-E</b>	<b>01/23/17</b>
	<b>Petitioner</b>	<b>ExxonMobil Production Company</b>	
	<b>Permit #</b>	<b>Part 70/PTO 5651</b>	
	<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>01/19/17</b>	
	<b>Time Rec'd</b>	<b>14:22</b>	
<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>			

**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD  
OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

In The Matter of the Application of )  
 ExxonMobil Production Company for )  
 an Emergency Variance from District )  
 Rule 206, Condition 9.C.2(b)(v) of Part )  
 70/Permit to Operate 5651. )

**H.B. Case No. 2017-09-E**

**VARIANCE FINDINGS**

**AND ORDER**

ExxonMobil Production Company filed a Petition for an Emergency Variance on January 19, 2017. A hearing regarding the above-entitled matter was held on January 23, 2017 with Mike McKay appearing for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

This matter having been fully presented and duly considered, the Hearing Board makes the following findings and gives the following reasons for its decision.

1. Notice of the Hearing was duly given in the manner and for the time required by law.
2. Sworn testimony and argument on behalf of the Petitioner and the Air Pollution Control Officer were made, received and considered.
3. The Petitioner operates the equipment described in the Petition at the Las Flores Canyon (LFC) oil and gas processing plant located approximately 25 miles northwest of the City of Santa Barbara, California.
4. As a result of the Plains All American Pipeline failure, the LFC facility is temporarily ceasing operations. Preservation of the facility is ongoing. As a part of that process, Ammonia Storage Vessel MBE-2105 was evacuated and the inventory of ammonia was placed in a tanker truck for return to the supplier. The vessel was subsequently purged with nitrogen to remove any residual ammonia by routing it to the thermal oxidizer. This process of combustion is not allowed under Permit Condition 9.C.2(b)(v) and therefore constituted a violation for which the Petitioner submitted a deviation report. The vessel is currently at 30ppm ammonia and needs additional purging to bring the NH<sub>3</sub>

concentration down to the required preservation status, therefore, this petition was filed. If this variance is approved, the purging will generate approximately 0.032lbs/NOx.

5. A nuisance as defined in District Rule 303 is not expected to occur as a result of this variance and continued operation is not likely to create an immediate threat or hazard to public health or safety.
6. The District staff supports the Petition as conditioned below.
7. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 42359.5, I find that "good cause" exists for the granting of Petitioner's request for an Emergency Variance.

**THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS,** as follows:

That a 30-Day Emergency Variance be granted for the continued operation of the Petitioner's facility in violation of Rule 206, Condition 9.C.2(b)(v) of Part 70/Permit to Operate 5651 from January 20, 2017 through February 18, 2017 with the following conditions:.

1. Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Hearing Board and District by February 24, 2017. The report shall include the date compliance was achieved together with a description of the corrective action taken and the dates, times, flare volumes and actual emissions that occurred during the variance.
2. Petitioner shall retain the obligation to comply with all other local, state and federal regulations not specifically referenced in the Order.
3. Failure to abide by all conditions of the this Order shall subject the Petitioner receiving the variance to penalties set forth in Health and Safety Code section 42402.
4. Each day during any portion of which a violation occurs is a separate offense.

DATED: 1/23/17



Don Ward, Member  
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Hearing Board