The United States Air Force filed a Petition for an Emergency Variance on April 26, 2018. A hearing regarding the above-entitled matter was held on April 27, 2018. Kimberlee Harding represented the Petitioner, Mike McKay represented the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and Terence Dressler represented the Hearing Board for this Emergency Hearing.

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 Vandenberg Air Force Base, located 9.2 miles northwest of Lompoc, California.

4. On April 25, 2018, the Petitioner discovered a malfunction with a transmitter related to their CEMS for Turbine C, causing inaccurate water fuel data to be transmitted. Once discovered, Turbine C was shut down to assess the problem. It was discovered the water fuel ratio going through Turbine C was correct, and the error was merely an incorrect data transmission issue. The Petitioner called the District to report the error and after discussing their options, they decided to file Breakdown #11505 at 16:28 on April 25, 2018. Due to the CEMS nature of the issue, the filed Breakdown afforded the Petitioner...
96 hours of protection. The Petitioner then submitted a Petition for this Emergency Variance as the power plant is currently being used as backup to support an upcoming launch. The Petitioner has five turbines at their power plant location (A, B, C, D, E). A and D are currently unavailable, B and E are operating in support of the launch, and C is the backup for B and E. Due to this launch support, the Petitioner's power plant cannot be de-energized to perform necessary repairs to the CEMS for Turbine C at this time. The launch is scheduled for May 05, 2018, and until the launch occurs, Turbine C needs to be available for potential operations. Until the CEMS data error can be repaired, the Petitioner is unable to maintain compliance with the above conditions.

5. If, due to reasons beyond the control of the Petitioner, successful equipment repairs are unable to be completed during this Variance period, additional relief will be sought.

6. 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.

7. The District staff supports the Petition as conditioned below.

THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS, as follows:

That a 15-Day Emergency Variance be granted for the operation of the Petitioner's facility in violation of Rule 206, Condition 9.C.1(b)(vi) of Permit to Operate 13968 from April 26, 2018 through May 10, 2018 with the following conditions:

1. Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Hearing Board and District by May 25, 2018. The report shall include the date compliance was achieved together with a description of the corrective action taken, and emissions, if any, 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 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: 4/27/2018

Terence Dressler, Vice Chair
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Hearing Board