

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> air pollution control district SANTA BARBARA COUNTY </div>	Case No / Date	2025-04-M1	01/07/2026
	Petitioner	MANN+HUMMEL Water Fluid Solutions, Inc., dba MNUS	
	Permit #	PTO 16120	
	Date Rec'd	12/01/2025	
	Time Rec'd	1638 hours	
	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		

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

In the Matter of the Application of)
MANN+HUMMEL Water Fluid)
Solutions, Inc., dba MNUS for a)
Regular Variance from District)
Rule 206, Permit to Operate 16120,)
Conditions 1, 2.d.iv, 9, 11.a (for)
thermal oxidizer, APCD Device)
ID 109886), Table 3 (ACM Casting)
Dryer and Rinse Tank Emissions), and)
Table 4 (for thermal oxidizer, APCD)
Device ID 109886).

H.B. Case No. 2025-04-M1

VARIANCE FINDINGS

AND ORDER

MANN+HUMMEL Water Fluid Solutions, Inc., dba MNUS (Petitioner) filed a Petition for a Modification of Regular Variance and Modification of Final Compliance Date of Regular Variance 2025-04-R on December 1, 2025. A hearing of the Modification of Regular Variance and Modification of Final Compliance Date was held on January 7, 2026, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 40808. John Paolo Quinto, Matthew Rutherford, Aaron Roth and Matthew Dunn represented the Petitioner, and Aimee Long represented the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (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.

HEARING

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. A nuisance as defined in District Rule 303 is not expected to occur as a result of this Variance.
4. If, due to reasons beyond the control of the Petitioner, compliance is not achieved during this Variance period, additional relief will be sought.
5. District staff supports the Petition as conditioned below.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. On March 5, 2025, the Hearing Board granted Regular Variance Order 2025-04-R, which provides relief through January 28, 2026, or the date compliance is achieved, whichever comes first.
2. The Petitioner manufactures water purification filters, located at 6325 Lindmar Avenue, in Goleta, California.
3. The Petitioner uses three types of casting processes to manufacture water filters. The main casting process, the advanced composite membrane (ACM) casting, utilizes a thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) to control emissions captured from the ACM coating process.
4. The 1.000 MMBtu/hr thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is required by the Petitioner's permit to undergo source testing annually.
5. Source testing on the thermal oxidizer was last conducted on November 6, 2024. Results indicated the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) 10 ppmv Reactive Organic Compound (ROC) outlet concentration limit and the 750 scfm outlet flow rate limit were both exceeded; the source test results showed the ROC outlet concentration was 20.66 ppmv and the outlet flow rate was 1290 scfm.
6. On December 10, 2024, the Petitioner contacted a third-party vendor to inspect the thermal oxidizer. On January 13 and 14, 2025, a more detailed inspection was performed and it was determined the heat exchanger pipes are significantly deteriorated.
7. The Petitioner evaluated the situation and decided to replace the thermal oxidizer since it was at the end of its operational life cycle.
8. Until compliance can be achieved, the Petitioner is requesting relief from the BACT ROC destruction efficiency requirements, outlet flow rate, and source test requirements for the thermal oxidizer, as specified in the Petitioner's permit to operate.
9. The Petitioner must obtain all the necessary approvals and permits, prior to the installation of the new thermal oxidizer. At this time, the Petitioner is still awaiting approval from other

regulatory agencies to install the thermal oxidizer.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

1. When the Petitioner initially came to the Hearing Board to request Variance coverage in January 2025, they were unaware of the state of the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) until a third-party vendor was hired to investigate the equipment after the failed source test. During the variance period covered by Regular Variance 2025-04-R (March 2025 through December 2025), the following was accomplished by the Petitioner:
 - a. Met with five different thermal oxidizer vendors, obtained separate quotes and sent them to the Petitioner's procurement team for review. The review and selection process took approximately 8 months, and payment authorization took approximately one month.
 - b. On May 22, 2025, the Petitioner submitted a permit application to the District for the new thermal oxidizer (ATC 16423).
 - c. In June 2025, the Petitioner requested abandonment of monitoring wells from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). The monitoring wells are located in the rear parking lot, identified as the proposed location of the new thermal oxidizer. Due to its larger size, the new thermal oxidizer will not fit in the location of the existing thermal oxidizer, so the Petitioner identified a new location for the new thermal oxidizer in the rear parking lot near monitoring wells.
 - d. On August 13, 2025, the Petitioner awarded the thermal oxidizer contract to Epcon Industries Inc. Epcon Industries began the process of acquiring specialized mechanical components needed for the thermal oxidizer (e.g., temperature control valve, combustion burner, and flow control valve). These critical parts have an industry-wide lead time of twenty plus weeks.
 - e. Gathered the necessary documents and conducted the necessary assessments needed for the Land Use Permit for the City of Goleta (e.g., application, project description, proof of documentation from the District regarding the project (ATC application), existing and proposed site plans, covenants/conditions, restrictions, digital sample board, preliminary title report, pictures of site, biological survey, archaeological assessment, cultural resources assessment, justification statement, and thermal oxidizer general arrangements).
 - f. On November 4, 2025, the Petitioner submitted a Land Use Application to the City of Goleta.

- g. On November 4, 2025, the Petitioner received notification from the CCRWQCB that the requested abandonment of the monitoring wells was denied.
 - h. On November 7, 2025, the Petitioner obtained a District Authority to Construct permit (ATC 16423) to install the new Epcon thermal oxidizer.
 - i. On October 29, 2025, the Petitioner prepared and submitted a Conjunctive Parking Agreement to the adjacent landowners for their review and signature, as required by the City of Goleta due to the loss of parking spots associated with the proposed location of the new thermal oxidizer.
 - j. In November 2025, the Petitioner revised the site plans to meet the City of Goleta standards.
 - k. On November 24, 2025, the Petitioner completed the geotechnical report (soils report), which is required to complete the structural plans needed by the Planning Department.
 - l. On December 2, 2025, the Petitioner met with the consulting firm, APEX, who is handling the monitoring wells, and they agreed to deflect one of the monitoring wells so that the new site location for the thermal oxidizer can be used.
 - m. On December 17, 2025, the Petitioner was unsuccessful at securing the signatures for the Conjunctive Parking Agreement by the adjacent landowners and decided to pursue an alternative location for the new thermal oxidizer.
2. The following items need to be completed in order to obtain the Land Use approvals from the City of Goleta to install the new Epcon the thermal oxidizer:
- a. Revise the site plan to identify an alternative location for the new thermal oxidizer, due to the well abandonment denial by the CCRWQCB and the unsuccessful Conjunctive Parking Agreement by the adjacent landowners.
 - b. Resubmit the revised Land Use Permit application documents to the City of Goleta.
 - c. Obtain the Land Use Permit from the City of Goleta (once the application is complete, expected processing time is 2 – 3 months, but could be longer depending on the lead agency requirements).
 - d. Obtain any additional agency permits that are required (e.g. City of Goleta building permit).
3. Once the Petitioner receives the Land Use Permit from the City of Goleta and any additional

permits required (e.g. building permits, etc.), the Petitioner will have the necessary permits in place to start the installation process.

4. The Petitioner anticipates the installation process to be completed within 2 - 3 months after they obtain all required approvals from the City of Goleta, CCRWQB, etc. Due to unknowns with these agencies' timelines, the Petitioner has requested a one year regular variance for achieving compliance.
5. At this time, the Petitioner remains out of compliance with the requirements listed herein. In accordance with Health and Safety Code Sections 42356 and 42357, the Petitioner is requesting a Modification of Variance and Modification of Final Compliance Date of Regular Variance 2025-04-R, to add additional time to obtain the necessary permits, approvals, and components to install the Epcon thermal oxidizer.

FINDINGS

1. Without Variance coverage, the Petitioner will be in violation of District Rule 206, Permit to Operate 16120, Conditions 1, 2.d.iv, 9, 11.a (for thermal oxidizer, APCD Device ID 109886), Table 3 (ACM Casting Dryer and Rinse Tank Emissions), and Table 4 (for thermal oxidizer, APCD Device ID 109886).
2. Due to conditions beyond the reasonable control of the Petitioner, requiring compliance would result in either (A) an arbitrary or unreasonable taking of property, or (B) the practical closing and elimination of a lawful business.

The lead agency approval timelines, including the City of Goleta land use permit and the CCRWQBC monitoring well requirements are beyond the reasonable control of the Petitioner.

In addition, some of the critical components required for the Epcon thermal oxidizer, have an industry standard of approximately 20 plus weeks to receive. Due to the critical nature of these parts, the thermal oxidizer cannot be installed and operated without these parts even if the Land Use Permit was issued.

Further, the thermal oxidizer is an integral part of the Petitioner's lawful business and immediate compliance is not possible. Without the thermal oxidizer the business would not be able to operate and therefore would not be able to meet contractual deadlines, resulting in the closing of a lawful business.

3. The closing or taking would be without a corresponding benefit in reducing air contaminants. The excess emissions from the thermal oxidizer are not expected to result in an exceedance of the facility's permitted emissions or cause a public nuisance. The Petitioner anticipates the emissions from the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886), to be less than the hardship to

the Petitioner if compliance is required against the benefit to the public if the pollution is curtailed by compliance.

4. The Petitioner has considered curtailing operations, however, the ACM casting process, which utilizes the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886), is an integral process to the facility. Without the thermal oxidizer, the facility would be required to cease operations of the ACM casting process. Additionally, because the ACM process is also used in the majority of other processes, it would also shut down the other casting lines. According to the Petitioner, this would have huge implications for the facility and would likely cause the Petitioner to close the business, resulting in lost jobs.
5. During the period the Variance is in effect, the Petitioner will reduce emissions from the ACM to the maximum extent possible by continuing to operate the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) while there is a potential to emit from the ACM, except when the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) needs to be shut down or removed in order to install and/or begin operating the new replacement thermal oxidizer.
6. The Petitioner will monitor the thermal oxidizer damper to ensure the outlet flow does not exceed 750 scfm. During Variance coverage 2025-04-R, no excess emissions were reported. The emissions associated with the Variance are below the facilities permitted emission limit. As a result, the emissions are expected to remain the same with the granting of this Variance.

THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS, as follows:

That a Modification of Regular Variance and Modification of Final Compliance Date of Regular Variance 2024-04-R be granted for relief from the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) reactive organic compounds (ROCs) destruction efficiency requirements, outlet flow rate, and source testing requirements for the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) until compliance can be achieved, which is in violation of District Rule 206, Permit to Operate 16120, Conditions 1, 2.d.iv, 9, 11.a (for thermal oxidizer, APCD Device ID 109886), Table 3 (ACM Casting Dryer and Rinse Tank Emissions), and Table 4 (for thermal oxidizer, APCD Device ID 109886) from January 29, 2026 through January 28, 2027, or the date compliance is achieved, whichever occurs first, with the following conditions:

1. The Petitioner shall meet the following Increments of Progress:
 - a. Submit a complete Land Use Permit application to the City of Goleta by January 30, 2026.
 - b. Begin construction under District Authority to Construct (ATC) 16423 by August 1, 2026.
 - c. Begin operating under ATC 16423 by January 28, 2027.

2. The Petitioner shall reduce emissions from the ACM to the maximum extent possible by continuing to operate the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) while there is a potential to emit from the ACM, except when the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) needs to be shut down or removed in order to install and/or begin operating the new replacement thermal oxidizer.
3. Petitioner shall submit a written monthly report to the Hearing Board and District, to variance@sbcapcd.org, starting February 15, 2026. The monthly report shall include:
 - a. Status of actions taken on Increments of Progress (see Condition 1 above).
 - b. All monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements associated with the thermal oxidizer specified in Conditions 3 and 4 of Permit to Operate 16120.
 - c. The date(s) and time(s) the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is shut down or removed for replacement purposes while there is a potential to emit from the ACM, and the date(s) and time(s) the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is returned to operation, if any.
 - d. The daily excess emissions in lbs, and totaled for the month. While the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is operating, the excess emissions shall be calculated using the November 6, 2024 source test ppmv outlet results. If there are periods of time when the ACM emissions are not controlled by a thermal oxidizer, the excess emissions from the ACM shall be calculated assuming 0% control.
 - e. If the Petitioner temporarily stops operating the ACM and eliminates all potential to emit from the ACM in order to reduce emissions to the maximum extent possible while the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is replaced, provide the dates and times as well as a description of how the potential to emit was eliminated from the ACM.
4. The Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Hearing Board and District, to variance@sbcapcd.org, by February 15, 2027, or within 30 calendar days of achieving compliance, whichever comes first. The report shall include the information required in Condition 3 of this Order.
5. The Petitioner shall retain the obligation to comply with all other local, state, and federal regulations not specifically referenced in the Order.
6. 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.

7. In accordance with District Fees Rule 210, the Petitioner shall pay excess emission fees for each additional ton of pollutant emissions or portion thereof allowed as the result of the issuance of this Variance.
8. Each day during any portion of which a violation occurs is a separate offense.

DATED: _____

Chair
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Hearing Boardp