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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Dec 09 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

December 8, 2021

Ms. Barbara Radlein
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project
SCH # 2018081096
Vic. LA-138/PM 46.221
GTS # LA-2018-03737-DEIR

Dear Ms. Radlein:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The project applicant, Quemetco, Inc. is seeking modifications to existing South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) permits for the Quemetco facility to increase the amount of lead product from approximately 460 tons per day (tpd) to 575 tpd and allow the facility to: 1) increase the throughput limit to the rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverberatory furnace from 600 tons per day (tpd) to 750 tpd; 2) increase the temperature of the exhaust from the rotary/kiln feed dryer from 330 degrees Fahrenheit (F) to 450 degrees F; 3) increase the amount of coke material (e.g., calcined coke, petroleum coke, or a combination thereof) processed in the rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverberatory furnace from 600,000 pounds per month (lbs/month) to 750,000 lbs/month; and 4) allow the use of petroleum coke, in lieu of or in addition to calcined coke, as a smelting reagent in the reverberatory furnace and electric arc furnace.

Quemetco currently operates the facility and most equipment 24 hours per day except that the rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverberatory furnace operate between 18 and 23 hours per day. The proposed Project would allow the rotary/kiln feed dryer and reverberatory furnace to operate up to 24 hours per day. Potential impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, energy, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and transportation were evaluated in the Draft EIR and the analysis concluded that the proposed Project would have less than significant impacts in each of these environmental topic areas.

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The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

The proposed Project will result in an increase of six daily employee commute trips by automobile (passenger vehicles and light trucks). Consequently, for the purpose of automobile VMT, the proposed Project is expected to generate less than the 110 trips per day for employee commute trips and can be screened out from requiring a further VMT analysis for employee commute trips in accordance with OPR's guidance for small projects. The proposed Project will result in an increase of 15 new daily round trip truck trips which will cause an overall increase in localized VMT and trip generation. Thus, on a regional basis, the proposed Project operations could potentially reduce regional and statewide truck VMT.

An evaluation of the truck turn movements for the northbound and southbound on- and off ramps at the interchange of State Route 60 and S. 7th Avenue was prepared to address impacts. The analysis determined that the existing ramp geometrics and turning radii are adequate for the existing and proposed truck movements through these on- and off-ramps.

In conclusion, the additional trip generation would not cause significant impacts to the existing state highway system. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2018-03734AL-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse