

 <p>air pollution control district SANTA BARBARA COUNTY</p>	Case No / Date	2025-04-R	03/05/2025
	Petitioner	MANN+HUMMEL Water Fluid Solutions, Inc., dba MNUS	
	Permit #	PTO 16120	
	Date Rec'd	01/29/2025	
	Time Rec'd	1615 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.)

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

VARIANCE FINDINGS

AND ORDER

MANN+HUMMEL Water Fluid Solutions, Inc., dba MNUS (Petitioner) filed a Petition for Regular and Interim Variances on January 29, 2025. The request for Interim Variance 2025-03-I was heard on February 19, 2025 and granted by Hearing Board Member Terence Dressler. Interim Variance Order 2025-03-I is in effect from January 29, 2025 through April 28, 2025 (not to exceed 90 days), or the date a decision is made on the Regular Variance, or the date compliance is achieved, whichever occurs first.

A hearing of the above-entitled matter was held on March 5, 2025, 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) for this Regular Variance 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.

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.

BACKGROUND

1. The Petitioner manufactures water purification filters, located at 6325 Lindmar Avenue, in Goleta, California.
2. 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 remove emissions captured from the ACM coating process.
3. The 1,000 MMBtu/hr thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is required by the Petitioner's permit to undergo source testing annually.
4. Source testing on the thermal oxidizer was last conducted on November 6, 2024. Results indicated the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) 10 ppmv 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.
5. On December 10, 2024, the Petitioner contacted a third-party vendor to inspect the thermal oxidizer. It was determined the heat exchanger pipes are deteriorated.
6. The Petitioner is currently evaluating the situation and will either repair or replace the thermal oxidizer to achieve compliance.
7. Until compliance can be achieved, the Petitioner is requesting relief from the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) reactive organic compounds (ROCs) destruction efficiency requirements, outlet flow rate, and source test requirements for the thermal oxidizer, as specified in the Petitioner's permit to operate.
8. At this time, the Petitioner is unsure which corrective action will be implemented. However, each corrective action will require additional time to implement. As a result, the Petitioner is requesting variance coverage.

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.
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 Petitioner was unaware of the state of the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) until a third-party vendor was hired to investigate as a result of the failed source test.

Immediate compliance is not possible because the thermal oxidizer is an integral part of the Petitioner's lawful business. Without the thermal oxidizer the business would not be able to meet contractual deadlines and therefore would result 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 for repair or replacement purposes.
6. The Petitioner will monitor the damper to ensure the outlet flow does not exceed 750 scfm. The excess emissions from the granting of this variance are unknown at this time. However, the emissions from the thermal oxidizer are not expected to exceed the facility's permitted emissions.

THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS, as follows:

That a Regular Variance 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 from March 5, 2025 through January 28, 2026, or the date compliance is achieved, whichever occurs first, with the following conditions:

1. 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 for repair or replacement purposes.
2. If the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is repaired, the unit shall be source tested within 45 days of being fully repaired and operational. Source testing shall follow the source testing requirements within the Petitioner's permit.
3. Petitioner shall submit a written monthly report to the Hearing Board and District, to variance@sbcapcd.org, starting March 15, 2025. The monthly report shall include:
 - a. All monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements associated with the thermal oxidizer specified in Conditions 3 and 4 of Permit to Operate 16120.
 - b. The date(s) and time(s) the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is shut down or removed for repair or 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 after repair.
 - c. The date and description of all repairs done to the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886).
 - 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 being repaired or replaced, provide the dates and times as well as a description of how the potential to emit was eliminated from the ACM.

- f. The date and time the thermal oxidizer (APCD Device ID 109886) is fully repaired and operational, as well as all records required by the Source Test condition within the Petitioner's permit, or the date and time a new replacement thermal oxidizer is installed and operational.
4. Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Hearing Board and District, to variance@sbcapcd.org, by February 15, 2026, 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. 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: _____

Terence Dressler
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Hearing Board