

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 93-2

January 14, 1993

Agenda Item No.: 93-1-2

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 39606(b) requires the Air Resources Board ("ARB" or "Board") to adopt ambient air quality standards in consideration of the public health, safety and welfare, including but not limited to health, illness, irritation to the senses, aesthetic value, interference with visibility, and effects on the economy;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 39606(b) further provides that standards relating to health effects shall be based upon the recommendation of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment;

WHEREAS, the Board periodically reviews existing State ambient air quality standards to ensure that they reflect current scientific knowledge. (California Code of Regulation, Title 17, Section 70101);

WHEREAS, the existing ambient air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) of 0.25 parts per million (ppm) averaged over one hour is based upon: (1) evidence of the potential to aggravate chronic respiratory disease and respiratory symptoms in sensitive groups and that the risk to public health is implied by pulmonary and extra-pulmonary biochemical and cellular and pulmonary structural changes, which are observed in short-term animal tests at or above the concentration of the standard; and (2) the need to impose an upper limit on adverse effects on welfare, including atmospheric discoloration by NO₂;

WHEREAS, recently published scientific research findings support the existing basis for the current state nitrogen dioxide ambient air quality standard;

WHEREAS, ARB staff and Office Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHA) staff have reviewed the recent health effects studies and concur in their recommendation to the Board that the current statewide ambient air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide adequately protects public health and welfare, and regulatory action to revise the standards is not necessary at this time;

WHEREAS, the Board has held a duly noticed public meeting at which it has received and considered evidence, both written and oral, presented to it by staff, other scientists, and members of the public relating to the standards;

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act and Board regulations require that action not be taken as proposed if feasible mitigation measures or alternatives exist that would substantially reduce any significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed action;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and Board regulations, that this regulatory action will have no significant adverse impact on the environment;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the current State nitrogen dioxide ambient air quality standard of 0.25 parts per million averaged over one hour is necessary because of the potential to aggravate chronic respiratory disease and respiratory symptoms in sensitive groups and that the risk to public health is implied by pulmonary and extra-pulmonary biochemical and cellular and pulmonary structural changes, which are observed in short-term animal tests at or above the concentration of the standard; and

WHEREAS, the Board also finds that the current State nitrogen dioxide ambient air quality standard of 0.25 parts per million averaged over one hour is necessary because of the need to impose an upper limit on adverse effects on welfare, including atmospheric discoloration by NO₂.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms that the existing State ambient air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide is adequate to protect the public health and welfare and regulatory action is not necessary to revise the standard at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to continue to monitor research efforts and regulatory issues relevant to this standard and to inform the Board of any significant new developments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also directs the Executive Officer to review these standards again in five years, or sooner if new information indicates that the existing standards may no longer be appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to continue to monitor regulatory issues and research efforts relevant to the standard and to specifically address research on immune system effects of nitrogen dioxide exposure, and to inform the Board of any significant new developments.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 93-2, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Pat Hutchens

Pat Hutchens, Board Secretary