



Desert View Power (DVP) Community Meeting Summary Sheet

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About DVP

Desert View Power (DVP) is a biomass electrical generation facility located approximately 40 miles southeast of Palm Springs in Riverside County, California. DVP generates electricity by burning woody biomass. Compliance with federal Clean Air Act requirements is monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The facility is under a long-term agreement to supply power to the Imperial Irrigation District and supplies no other entity with power nor sells excess power to the grid. EPA regulates DVP since it is located on the Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians Reservation, which is federally recognized Tribal land. This facility first operated as Colmac Energy, Inc., and in 2011, the facility was acquired by Greenleaf Power, and changed its name to Desert View Power.

About the Meeting

On August 29, 2023, EPA met with community members to discuss a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued to DVP for alleged emission exceedances and violations of regulatory requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

EPA's Role

EPA's purpose at the community meeting was to provide information about the compliance and enforcement process, and to listen and learn about community concerns.

During the Meeting

- EPA presented the background of DVP and the work of EPA. Participants were then invited to an open discussion to ask clarifying questions about the presentation.
- During the meeting, the community voiced environmental and health concerns, conversed with EPA, and brainstormed on effective solutions.

What We Heard from You

Suggestions:

- Various forms of community engagement to address the lack of representation for Spanish-speaking and working communities.
- Inclusion and meaningful participation from the entire Coachella Valley, not just Mecca.
- Community health education on pollution and contaminant impact.

Requests for more information regarding:

- DVP's historical context and changes over time.
- Current operations, practices, and air permits at DVP.
- Neighboring facilities and out-of-state trucks.

Requests for addressing issues related to dust and odor.



Resources and Next Steps

Resources	
Meeting Information	Presentation and Meeting Notes: https://www.epa.gov/ca/epa-enforcement-desert-view-power
Inspection Report & NOV	https://www.epa.gov/ca/epa-enforcement-desert-view-power
General Information	Clean Air Act: www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview Check Local Air Quality: www.airnow.gov/ Air Quality Index Basics: www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/
Health Information	www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics
Reporting Resources	Report a Violation: www.epa.gov/report-violation
Next DVP Community Meeting: May 14th, 2024 Spanish-English interpretation and translation available at the meeting!	

Progress is being made to address community issues and we are interested in hearing community input to prioritize projects.

EPA Compliance Activities

April 2, 2021: EPA issued a Clean Air Act information request to DVP and began its investigation.

May 3, 2021 and July 6, 2021: DVP responded to EPA's information requests.

November 17, 2021: EPA led an on-site inspection at the facility.

January 20, 2022: EPA issued its Inspection Report.

June 14, 2022: EPA issued a Notice of Violation (NOV).

- The timing of the investigation process varies case by case. EPA is currently in settlement negotiations with DVP, and the process is enforcement and settlement confidential due to the nature of the investigation and the EPA process.
- In terms of community engagement, EPA is in the process of identifying project ideas and solutions based on community input. During the meeting, community members emphasized the need for cleaner air and expressed a desire for professionals to address their concerns.

Answers to Follow-up Questions from the Meeting

- Emission Monitoring:**
EPA directly implements the Clean Air Act at facilities on federally recognized tribal lands. EPA conducts full compliance evaluations, at least once every two years at all major sources of air pollution. Non-compliance is assessed through investigations, inspections, and reporting. Inspection reports are typically public information and can be requested from the EPA.
- Claims of DVP Burning Wood Treated with Pesticides:**
Burning wood treated with pesticides is not allowed under the permit. EPA has no evidence of such practices being conducted by DVP.
- Nighttime Issues:**
DVP operates on a Clean Air Act permit that allows for operations at 24-hours a day and 7 days a week including nighttime.