



Greenleaf Desert View Power Environmental Compliance Activity Log

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA

Background

Greenleaf Desert View Power (DVP) is a power plant located on Cabazon Band of Mission Indians reservation land in Mecca, CA. The plant burns woody biomass (tree-trimmings, orchard and vine removal, fruit pits and shells, scrap wood, etc) and converts it to renewable energy which is sold to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The plant was built in the early 1990's and addressed air quality concerns caused by agricultural open burning in the area.

Community members expressed concerns about truck traffic, dust, and smoke coming from the plant at night, and about potential exposure to toxic air pollutants. Residents from the community also expressed comments that there was no vegetation around the plant.

What are the air emission environmental requirements at this facility?

Desert View Power is subject to federal, state, and local requirements including air emissions, stormwater, waste management, and land use site restrictions.

At the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has direct permitting authority and federal enforcement authority on tribal lands held in trust. The plant is regulated under the federal Clean Air Act preconstruction (PSD, or Prevention of Significant Deterioration) and operating (Title V) permits, and other regulatory standards. These permits and the Clean Air Act emission standards regulates the facility's burning of primarily agricultural biomass and municipal wood waste.

At the state level, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) has direct control over mobile sources outside the DVP fence-line. There is no direct state authority at the plant.

Who is involved in this matter?

Multiple agencies at the federal and local levels are responsible for regulating DVP and have been engaged in inspection and enforcement activities. The following agencies have coordinated and communicated environmental compliance activities:

- U.S. EPA. (EPA)
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (CBMI)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

CalEPA is the parent agency to six boards, departments, and offices charged with protecting public health and the environment, including the California Air Resources Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Water Boards, CalRecycle, and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEPA and its boards and departments do not exercise

enforcement authorities at Desert View Power because the facility is located on tribal trust land.

US EPA Actions

- **August 29, 2023:** EPA hosted a community meeting in Mecca to listen to community concerns.
- **June 14, 2022:** EPA issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to DVP for alleged emission exceedances and violations of performance testing requirements.
- **January 20, 2022:** EPA issued its Inspection Report from the November inspection.
- **November 17, 2021:** EPA led an on-site inspection at the facility (accompanied by a SCAQMD inspector and CBMI representatives).
- **May 30, 2021 and July 6, 2021:** DVP responded to EPA's information request.
- **April 2, 2021:** EPA issued a Clean Air Act information request to DVP and began its investigation.
- **September 30, 2020:** EPA issued the Title V permit renewal and its consolidated PSD permit to DVP.

South Coast AQMD Actions

- **February 07, 2024:** South Coast AQMD performed an on-site inspection at DVP for breakdowns submitted to South Coast AQMD (accompanied by CBMI representatives).
- **June 30, 2023:** South Coast AQMD performed a continuation of the onsite inspection of DVP on 06/22/23 (accompanied by CBMI representatives).
- **June 22, 2023:** South Coast AQMD performed an onsite inspection of DVP (accompanied by CBMI representatives)
- **June 23, 2022:** AB617 CSC Meeting with EPA's announcement of EPA's NOV issued to DVP.
- **April 28, 2022:** AB617 CSC Meeting with a presentation by DVP.
- **January 27, 2022:** AB617 CSC Meeting featuring an EPA presentation on DVP with community members.
- **November 18, 2021:** Attended a continuation EPA-led inspection at DVP on 11/17/21 (accompanied by CBMI representatives).
- **November 17, 2021:** Attended an EPA-led inspection at DVP (accompanied by CBMI representatives).
- **June 4, 2021:** SCAQMD performed an onsite inspection of DVP (accompanied by CBMI representatives)

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