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Please see attached pdf. Thanks.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

California Energy Commission
Stack Trade Zone Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE)
21-SPPE-02

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you to the Commission and to Stack Trade Zone stakeholders for taking noise considerations seriously. I noticed the July 21st, 2022 Landau Associates noise report, staff requests for more information and the October 24th, 2022 answers provided. The noise report it shows that ambient noise can be higher than recommended. Since “white noise” might increase due to this project, I believe your work on attenuating that increase or preventing it, is probably more important than obvious – especially to the project’s long-term workers and nearby residents. Noise can be insidious. Noise levels, if not appreciated and maintained at low levels can eventually become a bit more painful than obvious.

The noise report seems important, stating:

1. “the City of San Jose’s Municipal Code contains a Zoning Ordinance that limits noise levels at adjacent properties. Chapter 20.50.300 states that sound pressure levels generated by any use or combination of uses on a property zoned for industrial use shall **not exceed 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA)** at any property line shared with land used or zoned for commercial purposes.”
2. “Illingworth & Rodkin conducted a noise measurement survey including a long-term measurement at the **residences to the north of the Facility and reported existing Leg ranging from 63 to 73 dBA,**” *which is obviously already above the San Jose ordinance.*
3. “Each planned emergency generator will be housed in an enclosure rated to attenuate noise from the generator to a maximum level of **70 dBA** at 23 feet (7 meters) from the enclosure,” *which is obviously above the San Jose ordinance.*
4. “Each exhaust stack will be equipped with a diesel particulate filter (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) emission controls. Noise reduction associated with the SCR was conservatively modeled at **35 dBA,**” *which is a remarkable noise reduction if referring to the emergency generators.*
5. “Modeled noise levels at the residential property line to the north, represented by receiver R1b (56 dBA daytime, 51 dBA nighttime) exceed the daytime and nighttime noise limits of 55 dBA and 45 dBA, respectively. Illingworth & Rodkin conducted a noise measurement survey including a longterm measurement at the residences to the north of the Facility and reported minimum ambient noise levels of **69 dBA (daytime) and 63 dBA (nighttime),**” *which is above the San Jose ordinance.*
6. “The interior southeast corner of the Facility was identified as a location where **modeled noise levels exceeded the relevant noise threshold (60 dBA)** during generator maintenance operation of a single generator at a time.” “Through a combination of the above-described measures, noise levels can be reduced to below 60 dBA at the east-adjacent commercial property during individual maintenance operation of all but a limited

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number of emergency generators. Those remaining generators (generators SVY0619, 20, and 21—upper-level units in the eastern portion of the SVY06 generator yard, as shown on Figure 1) **whose individual operation results in noise levels above 60 dBA** will be operated for scheduled maintenance only between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays, to avoid impacts to employees during work hours.” *Though the scheduled maintenance time may not impact workers, this time may impact residents. Fortunately, from 5-7 pm, most people are not trying to sleep. However, babies, students and patients might be impacted negatively.*

The noise report Table 1 shows various noise-making machinery, **ranging from 70-100 dBA**. These are big dBA numbers, and one might have to research the project details it seems, to easily connect the referenced generators (generators SVY0619, 20, and 21) to the given dBA numbers.

Though “Emergency work is exempt from the sound-level limits,” recent data-center-projects-with-backup-generation designers have designed these California Energy Commission Small Power Plant Exemptions (SPPEs) seemingly to need to operate no matter what value (asset) of data the center houses. Although this newer emergency concept may make sense to highly connected, high technology patrons, other humans in other situations, e.g., stay-at-home parents, working-at-home persons, students, elderly, low-income and/or disabled persons, might need to endure noise made to furnish a more employed, higher paid population. Different population types might be difficult to relate to.

Unfortunately, I am not a noise expert. I own a decibel meter. I believe my new outdoor heat pump unit, like many heating and air condition units, may not meet Sacramento County Noise Ordinance levels, which I believe is 65 dba or less, 1 foot or more on the other side of a neighboring fence. I tried reducing this noise and it is extremely difficult. The problem is not necessarily my unit alone, (though the noise of mine alone is enough to keep from wanting to use the heating and air conditioning system while attempting to sleep). The bigger noise problem can be the cumulative noise created by different heating and air conditioning machinery, plus street noise, possibly landscaper leaf blowers, construction and/or other machined equipment.

Noise seems a rather amazing public health problem not to consider as important. However, it seems our machine designers, manufacturers, developers, contractors, residents and inspectors might need to learn '24-hour, 365 days/year white' ambient noise to understand that low-level sounding noise needs these important considerations to be appreciated appropriately for kinder public health environments and new improved products. Again, thank you for taking noise seriously.

Sincerely,

Claire Warshaw