

October 5, 2017

TO: All Interested Parties:

**SUBJECT: RULEMAKING PROPOSAL: HIGH-GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL
REFRIGERANT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss a proposal for reducing high-global warming potential (GWP) refrigerant emissions from stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment using a two-step process:

1. Begin a rulemaking process to adopt into state regulations, with any appropriate modifications, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Rule provisions as they relate to prohibitions on certain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in stationary refrigeration and air conditioning end uses; and
2. Further evaluate the proposed HFC mitigation strategies identified in CARB's adopted Short Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Strategy for potential future rulemakings.

At the workshop, CARB staff will present an overview of HFC emissions sectors, reduction efforts to date, the draft regulatory language for incorporating U.S. EPA SNAP Rule provisions into state regulations, and next steps on the HFC mitigation strategies identified in the SLCP Strategy.

Background

In order to meet California's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets under Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) (Stats. 2006, ch. 488) and Senate Bill 32 (SB 32) (Stats. 2016, ch. 249), a special effort has been mounted to address SLCPs, which are powerful climate forcers that remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter period of time than longer-lived climate pollutants, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) but are more potent when measured in terms of how they heat the atmosphere, which can be tens, hundreds, or even thousands of times greater than that of CO₂. Reducing SLCPs in the near-term will provide immediate and significant climate benefits while other California policies to reduce longer-lived GHGs are implemented. SLCPs include fluorinated gases (F-gases), such as HFCs.

Recognizing this, the Legislature passed SB 605 (Stats. 2014, ch. 523), which ultimately required CARB to develop a strategy to further reduce SLCP emissions. In 2016, the Legislature passed SB 1383 (Stats. 2016, ch. 395), requiring CARB to implement the SLCP Strategy and reduce HFCs by 40 percent below 2013 baseline levels by 2030. In

March of 2017, CARB approved the SLCP Strategy describing a set of proposed measures to reduce SCLP emissions in California. The Strategy describes the level of reductions needed to ensure that California continues to support the 2020 goals, meets its 2030 climate change goals, and remains on course to meet its 2050 goals. The SLCP Strategy anticipated California could rely on federal rules to meet a large portion of SB 1383's HFC reduction goals.

U.S. EPA SNAP Rules 20 and 21 prohibit specific high-GWP HFCs in new retail food refrigeration, food dispensing equipment, air-conditioning chillers, and refrigerated vending machines. Certain provisions of the SNAP Rules are at risk due to current litigation. Although CARB is actively defending these Rules in court, and believes that the federal program is the preferred path to achieve these reductions, it must consider state law alternatives as well in order to reach state reduction targets. At this public workshop, CARB staff will therefore be discussing the possibility of adopting certain provisions of these federal Rules into state regulations. Initially, staff are considering provisions addressing only certain provisions of the federal program. Additional sectors covered by SNAP Rules 20 and 21 such as residential refrigerator-freezers, motor-vehicle air-conditioning, insulating foam, and aerosol propellants, would not be addressed in these regulations, and could be addressed separately.

Workshop Logistics Information

In order to gather additional information from all stakeholders, the public workshop will be held at the time and location shown below:

Date: October 24, 2017 (Tuesday)
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: CalEPA Headquarters Building
2nd Floor, Sierra Hearing Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Directions to the CalEPA headquarters and public transit can be found at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>

Live Video/Audio Webcast

For those unable to attend the workshop in person, a live video/audio webcast will be available beginning at 10:00 AM on October 24, 2017 at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>. During the workshop, the webcast audience may submit questions and comments using the following E-mail address: sierrarm@calepa.ca.gov (note correction from previous bulletin).

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Workshop Materials

Stakeholders can stay current on regulatory developments, future meetings, and timelines by signing up for the list-serve and visiting CARB's website at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/shortlived.htm>. The meeting agenda, staff presentation, draft regulatory language, and any other related materials will be posted to the website prior to the workshop. You can sign up for the list-serve at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CARB/subscriber/new?topic_id=HFC-Reduction.

Public Comments on the Proposed HFC Reductions Approaches

CARB invites comments on the proposed approaches. Comments on the approaches can be submitted to Glenn Gallagher at (916) 327-8041 or glenn.gallagher@arb.ca.gov, or Pamela Gupta at (916) 327-0604 or pamela.gupta@arb.ca.gov, or mailed to the California Air Resources Board, Research Division, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Special Accommodation Request

If you have questions or requests regarding a disability-related reasonable accommodation for the workshop or require the workshop documents in an alternate format (e.g. Braille, large print) or another language, please contact Angel Melendez at (916) 323-4916 as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) business days before the workshop. TTY/TDD/Speech-to Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

We welcome and encourage your participation at this public workshop. If you have questions about the public workshop, please contact Glenn Gallagher at (916) 327-8041 or glenn.gallagher@arb.ca.gov, or Pamela Gupta at (916) 327-0604 or pamela.gupta@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael FitzGibbon, Chief
Atmospheric Science and Climate Strategies Branch
Research Division

Cc: Pamela Gupta, Manager
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy Section
Research Division