

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

Birgitta E. Corsello, Clerk of  
the Board of Supervisors of  
the County of Solano, State of California

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Solano County- Administration Center  
Clerk of the Board's Office  
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500  
Fairfield, California 94533

FROM: Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Contact: Loi Chau, (415) 749-8683

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA § 21152(b) AND CEQA GUIDELINES §§ 15062.

Project Title: UNIVAR SOLUTIONS USA, INC. – ISSUANCE OF PERMIT TO OPERATE FOR MODIFICATIONS OF 18 STORAGE TANKS:

(SOURCES 2, 5, 7, 13, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, AND 47), A DRUM AND CONTAINER FILLING LINE SYSTEM (SOURCE 42), A TRUCK LOADING AND UNLOADING OPERATION (SOURCE 43), AND TWO BLENDING TANKS (SOURCES 44 AND 45); AND,

TO ISSUE AN AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT FOR INSTALLATION OF A THERMAL OXIDIZER (A-5) TO REPLACE EXISTING THERMAL OXIDIZER (A-4);  
(APPLICATION NUMBER 30445).

**Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency):** Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District).

**Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project:** Univar Solutions USA, Inc. (Univar).

**Project Applicant Address:** 2461 Crocker Circle, Fairfield, California 94533.

**Project Applicant Contact Person:** Edward Ortiz, Facility Manager, (707) 416-9518.

**Project Location:** 2461 Crocker Circle, Fairfield, Solano County, California 94533.

**Project Description:**

This permit action was to issue a Permit to Operate for a modification of 18 storage tanks, (Sources 2, 5, 7, 13, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 47), a drum and container filling line system (Source 42), a truck loading and unloading operation (Source 43), and two blending tanks (Sources 44 and 45) and to issue an Authority to Construct for installation of a thermal oxidizer, Abatement Device (A-5). The goal of the project is to allow Univar to replace the existing thermal oxidizer (A-4) with a larger capacity thermal oxidizer. The existing thermal oxidizer has reached the end of its useful life.

Due to some ongoing maintenance issues, Univar will remove the existing thermal oxidation system and replace the system with a new thermal oxidation system. The replacement thermal oxidizer (Abatement Device 5) will increase the maximum firing rate from 1.2 MMBtu/hour to 3.25 MMBtu/hr. In addition, the replacement thermal oxidizer will be permitted to operate 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. The replacement thermal oxidizer will increase the potential natural gas usage from 2,000 therms/year to 284,700 therms/yr. The larger capacity thermal oxidizer along with the increased periods of operation will result in an increase of emissions from the sources abated by the thermal oxidizer (Sources 2, 5, 7, 13, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 47) along with increasing secondary emissions from the burner.

**Finding of and Citation to Basis for Exemption:**

The Air District's approval of the project is categorically exempt from CEQA because the permitting of the project involved no or negligible expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the Air District's CEQA

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determination (CEQA Guidelines § 15301). The action is further exempt under the “common sense” exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)). Additionally, the Air District has determined that many parts of this approval would be exempt from CEQA if they were not part of this project because the Air District’s action for the storage tank modifications is “ministerial” and therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(1) and the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15268(a). Also, the issuance of this Authority to Construct for the thermal oxidizer is exempt from CEQA because the permit application is for installation of air pollution control or abatement equipment and this category is exempted by the express terms of CEQA. CEQA Guidelines § 15301(f) exempts air pollution abatement devices.

**Reasons for Exemption:**

Issuance of this Authority to Construct does not authorize any change to, or expansion of, the existing use of either the chemical plant or the thermal oxidizer. Issuance of permit conditions changes for existing and permitted sources that involve no emissions increases or physical modifications does not expand an existing use. In addition, the applicant has included in its permit application CEQA related information (CEQA Appendix H) that demonstrates with certainty that the project has no potential for resulting in any additional or different environmental impacts beyond what is already entailed in the applicant’s existing use of the source; the project would therefore also be subject to the “Common Sense” exemption (Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)). In addition, many parts of the project would be exempt from CEQA if they were not part of this project. The air pollution abatement equipment of this project is subject to the “Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment...” exemption (Guidelines 15301(f)). The Air District’s action for the storage tank modifications is ministerial because regulatory requirements that govern the approval of this project involved objective numerical standards outlined in the Permit Handbook Chapter 4.0, which did not allow for or require any subjective judgment or discretion to interpret or apply. The Air District was required to approve the project where it complied with such standards. Because the approval is ministerial, the storage tank modifications are exempt from CEQA.

  
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Pamela J. Leong  
Director of Engineering  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Dated: August 31, 2021