



Health Risk Assessment Q&A

1. What is the purpose of the HRA?

The purpose of the HRA is to estimate how current or future chemical exposure could affect a broad population and whether such exposures require public notification under Bay Area Air Quality Management District guidelines.

2. Who required it?

The HRA was required to be conducted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District pursuant to California's Air Toxics Information and Assessment Act (also known as "Hot Spots").

3. Who prepared it?

The HRA was prepared by Pacific Steel Casting with the assistance of ENVIRON – a leading international environmental and health consultancy.

4. How is the HRA prepared?

There are 4 steps in preparing an HRA:

- *Identify chemicals of potential concern (Emissions Inventory Report)*
- *Assess the exposure (determine the amount, duration, and pattern of exposure)*
- *Estimate the relationship between exposure to the chemical and adverse health effect*

- *Assess the risk for the chemical to cause adverse health effects in the population.*

Pacific Steel Casting Co.'s HRA evaluates both existing operational conditions and future controlled conditions, taking into account equipment upgrades that have and will be installed to further reduce emissions. The HRA estimates that risks will be reduced by up to 40% under future conditions.

5. What actions can the Air District require Pacific Steel Casting to take as a result of the information contained in the HRA?

- *The Air District has the authority to require Pacific Steel to notify residents near the facility of potential health risk if the HRA determines that PSC has exceeded certain reporting thresholds. For example, if the increased cancer risk exceeds 10 per million, the facility may be required to provide notice to affected persons. At higher risk levels (i.e., above 100 per million), the facility would be required to make changes to reduce the risk.*

6. What are the actual results for Pacific Steel?

Pacific Steel emissions did not exceed cancer or non-cancer notification levels for persons living in the residential or mixed-use light industrial zones surrounding the facility under existing operational conditions.

The estimated cancer and non-cancer risks for all population, regardless of location, are below the risk reduction level as set by the Air District. In addition, the results show that emissions are within the range of risks considered to be protective of human health by the USEPA.

7. What happens next?

The Air District has established a 90-day public comment period. The City of Berkeley will conduct an independent review of the HRA. At the same time, the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA –a division of Cal/EPA) will also review the HRA and release comments on the report.

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