



## **The Southwest Clean Air Agency Announces \$301,860 Civil Penalty for Air Pollution Violations Against LANXESS Corporation (Formerly Emerald Kalama Chemical LLC)**

July 17, 2024

**Vancouver WA** - The Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) has announced a civil penalty against LANXESS Corp for significant violations of air quality regulations. Following an exhaustive investigation, SWCAA discovered substantial breaches of emission limits outlined in LANXESS Corp's Air Operating Permit.

Between March 2018 and December 2022, LANXESS Corp exceeded the toluene emission limit of 500 pounds per year, as well as the 1,000-pound per year volatile organic compound (VOC) emission limit stipulated in their Air Operating Permit SW99-10-R1A. Toluene emissions reached levels as high as 34,000 pounds, posing a potential threat to environmental quality and public health.

Toluene is a volatile organic compound known to cause a range of adverse health effects when inhaled, including irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat, as well as headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Prolonged exposure to high levels of toluene can lead to more severe health issues, such as damage to the central nervous system, liver, and kidneys. Vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions, may be particularly susceptible to the harmful effects of toluene exposure.

In response to these violations, SWCAA is imposing a civil penalty totaling \$301,860 against LANXESS Corp. This penalty reflects the severity of the violations and underscores the importance of compliance with air quality regulations to safeguard public welfare and the environment. SWCAA has also issued LANXESS a regulatory order requiring the company to develop a corrective action plan to avoid future compliance issues.

SWCAA is committed to enforcing air quality standards and holding violators accountable. The agency will continue to monitor LANXESS Corp's operations to support compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is dedicated to protecting and enhancing air quality in the Southwest region through effective regulation, monitoring, and enforcement. SWCAA works collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure compliance with air quality standards and to promote healthy air quality for all residents.

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