

**North Coast Unified  
Air Quality Management District**

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**Press Release from the  
North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 25, 2024

A recent press release from the Coalition for Clean Energy contains incorrect information regarding the status of the Title V Operating Permit for the Humboldt Sawmill Company facility located in Scotia, California.

Federal operating permits are issued for a term of five years and are subject to renewal. District rules require that an application be submitted before the expiration of the permit term. To allow sufficient time for the permitting authority to evaluate the application, application materials are to be submitted a minimum of 6 months in advance of the permit expiration date. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action.

The fifth term of Humboldt Sawmill Company's Title V permit ended on July 19, 2023. A renewal application was received by the District on May 12, 2023. The District deemed the application to be complete. Pursuant to District Rules, because the application was submitted before the permit expired, a permit shall remain in effect until such time as the permitting authority issues a final decision on the application. At any time throughout the application review process, the District may request additional information.

The application processing timeframe established in District Rules is 18 months from the date the application is received. Staff anticipates a final decision within the established regulatory time constraints. As mentioned above, the District did receive a complete application before the expiration date of the current permit to operate. However, the receipt of an application outside the timing requirements of District Rule 502(B)(2), is potentially a procedural violation. Similar to other air districts in California, the District is investigating the incident and may issue a violation notice pending the outcome of the investigation. A procedural violation is not considered a *high-priority violation* per EPA criteria.