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**Air Pollution Hearing Board Prepared to Issue Subpoena to Crimson Pipeline**

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On August 29 responding to pressure from Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) and frustrated with oil industry secrecy the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District hearing board voted unanimously to issue a subpoena to force Crimson Pipeline to explain why most of its Santa Paula area pipelines are shut down and when they will reopen. If the Crimson pipelines are corroded or malfunctioning CFROG obviously supports proper maintenance, but the public should be informed of the reason why an increase of pollution is taking place due to truck and tanker emissions.

The hearing was called to consider a request for a variance from California Resources Production Company (CRPC), an oil and gas operator. The variance was needed, CRPC said because Crimson has shut down a network of pipelines for unscheduled maintenance in the South Mountain, Santa Paula, Moorpark, Fillmore and Piru areas – in all impacting 12 oil and gas leases operated by CRPC.

The variance allows CRPC to use 20 oil tanker trucks to move thousands of barrels of oil a day. The variance was required because the land use permit requires the use of a pipeline to move oil and waste products from the oil leases. Because its permit requires the use of a pipeline to protect the public from diesel particles and reactive hydrocarbons, CRC had to go to the air board to get a short term variance. CRC told the board that Crimson had given them no notice of the shutdown and will not say when the pipelines will be fixed. Hearing Board members were shocked at the secrecy and failure of the pipeline company to inform its major customer what is going on.

If the pipelines are not operational and the trucking has not stopped in 90 days a subpoena will be issued to force Crimson to come to the next hearing on November 21st.

The company will either choose to tell the board and the public what is taking place or exercise the right guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of refusing to answer questions in order to avoid incriminating itself.

Crimson has a history of pipeline spills. Corrosion was the cause for four spills in California since 2006, Five spills — one of which involved corrosion — have occurred in Ventura County during the same period. The Ventura spill in June is unofficially blamed on a poorly installed valve. There have been no federal inspections of Crimson pipelines since at least 2006

For more information on the hearing, the requested variance and comments submitted by CFROG Visit - [http://www.cfrog.org/cfrog\\_sends\\_comment\\_to\\_vcpcd\\_hearing\\_board](http://www.cfrog.org/cfrog_sends_comment_to_vcpcd_hearing_board)