

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 77-27

April 29, 1977

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the use of the gasoline additive methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT) can cause plugging of catalytic converters when they are installed in close proximity to a vehicle engine;

WHEREAS, the location of catalysts in close proximity to engines has the potential for allowing reduced vehicle emissions and improved fuel economy;

WHEREAS, recent data reported to the Board indicate that the use of MMT causes engine combustion chamber deposits which can substantially increase hydrocarbon emissions;

WHEREAS, the engine modifications necessary to counteract the increased hydrocarbons caused by MMT on new vehicles are likely to degrade vehicle fuel economy and reduce the probability that auto manufacturers will be able to comply with future emission standards;

WHEREAS, the potential cost and energy benefits associated with using MMT in the production of unleaded gasoline are so small as to be more than counterbalanced by even minimal motor vehicle fuel economy penalties which it may cause;

WHEREAS, the combustion products of MMT may cause both direct and indirect adverse health effects, including effects caused by the ability of manganese oxides to increase the atmospheric conversion rates of sulfur dioxide to sulfate;

WHEREAS, the California State Department of Health has advised the Board that increased use of manganese fuel additives represents a potential health hazard; and

WHEREAS, a survey performed by the Board's staff indicates that the use of MMT in gasoline is projected to increase twenty-fold from current levels in the next few years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board requests all producers of gasoline intended for sale in California to postpone all plans for increased methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT) use and to phase-out any existing MMT usage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests that the staff issue a staff report and notice of public hearing to consider the regulation of MMT in gasoline intended for sale in California as soon as possible, preferably during June 1977.