



History of Hydrogen Sulfide Ambient Air Quality Standard

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What is hydrogen sulfide?

Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) is a colorless gas with the odor of rotten eggs. It is formed during bacterial decomposition of sulfur-containing organic substances. Also, it can be present in sewer gas and some natural gas, and can be emitted as the result of geothermal energy exploitation.

Health and Welfare Effects from Ambient Levels of Hydrogen Sulfide

Breathing H₂S at levels above the standard will result in exposure to a very disagreeable odor. In 1984, an ARB committee concluded that the ambient standard for H₂S is adequate to protect public health and to significantly reduce odor annoyance.

History of Hydrogen Sulfide Ambient Air Quality Standard

- In 1962, the California Board of Public Health adopted an air quality standard at the "adverse" level for H₂S of 0.1 ppm for one hour.
 - In 1969, the ARB adopted a standard for H₂S of 0.03 ppm for a one-hour average and in 1984, the ARB retained this standard.
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