

11-7-1990

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Pemex Program To Reduce Air Pollution

by Steven Ranieri

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, November 7, 1990

On Oct. 16, PEMEX announced a 42-point air pollution reduction program. Highlights include production and distribution of oxygenated and unleaded gasolines in the Mexico City metropolitan area, and remodeling of the 18 de Marzo refinery in Azcapotzalco. The refinery work will involve installation of crude oil and gasoline storage tanks designed to prevent evaporation, and industrial scrubbers and other devices in ovens and furnaces to reduce carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions. A PEMEX spokesperson said the government had negotiated a loan from Japan aimed at modernizing refineries to meet international environmental standards. The modernization program will require an investment of \$1 billion. On Oct. 19, PEMEX spokesperson Rafael Martinez Escobar at Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz state, told Notimex that the company's refineries in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, and Minatitlan, Veracruz, produce 36,000 barrels of super unleaded gasoline ("Magna-Sin") per day. At present, PEMEX's total output of Magna-Sin is 60,000 bpd. Martinez Escobar said demand for unleaded fuel remains rather low since catalytic converters are not yet widely available. (Source: Notimex, 10/16/90, 10/19/90)

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