



COMPLIANCE & PREVENTION

quarterly

Spring 2005

A Publication of Ohio EPA, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Ohio EPA Creates New Permitting Guide

Ohio EPA has introduced a new permitting guide to help businesses determine which environmental permits they need and how to get them. The free guide is offered through the Agency's newly formed Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/permitguide.pdf.

To obtain a printed copy of the guide, call (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

Information that can be found in the guide includes:

- links to permit application forms;
- sector-based permit checklists, such as which permits an auto body shop or restaurant would need;
- an overview of the permitting process and tips for getting through the process;
- a glossary of environmental terms; and
- self-evaluation, which includes a list of questions designed to point the reader toward information about the permits his or her facility may need.



Do I Need to File a TRI Report?

A Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report is due July 1 of each year for the preceding calendar year's releases. You need to file a TRI report if:

- Your company has 10 or more full-time employees;
- Your company operates under any of the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes:
 - Any manufacturing facility with a primary SIC code 20-39, including, among others, chemicals, petroleum refining, primary metals, fabricated metals, paper, rubber and plastics, or transportation equipment;
 - Is classified as one of seven non-manufacturing industrial sectors: metal mining (SIC 10), coal mining (SIC 12), coal and oil-fired electric generating facilities (SIC 49), commercial hazardous waste treatment facilities (SIC 4953), chemicals and allied products (wholesale) (SIC 5169), petroleum bulk stations (wholesale) (SIC 5171) and solvent recovery services (SIC 7389); or

Air Permit-By-Rules on Way

Ohio EPA is proposing to make revisions to OAC rule 3745-31 to add new "Permit-By-Rule" exemptions. These will exempt owners or operators of various types of low-emitting air pollution sources from the need to obtain a permit-to-install. For more information, visit the Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control's Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/regs.html.

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- Your company manufactured, imported, processed or otherwise used any of the TRI listed chemicals in greater than the threshold amounts during the last calendar year. For most TRI chemicals, the reporting thresholds are 25,000 pounds for manufacturing or processing and 10,000 pounds for chemicals used in other work. Lower thresholds, 100 pounds or less, exist for persistent, bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals. These include mercury and its compounds, and, in most cases, lead and its compounds.

For more information about TRI reporting contact Ohio EPA's TRI program at www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/tri/tri.html or (614) 644-2270.

Most Frequently Found Hazardous Waste Violations

According to data collected from December 2002 to November 2004 by Ohio EPA, the most frequently found hazardous waste violations include requirements concerning annual reports, hazardous waste determination, used oil storage, container management and testing and equipment maintenance.

Annual Reports

Large quantity generators (LQG) are most commonly cited for failure to submit an annual report before the deadline. Annual reports are due by March 1 each year. You are required to file an annual report if your business reaches LQG status at any time during the reporting calendar year.

Hazardous Waste Determination

Businesses are commonly cited for failure to properly evaluate their waste. Under Ohio EPA's regulations, all wastes generated by a business must be evaluated to determine whether they are hazardous before disposal. If you have a material that can no longer be used, it is considered a waste.

Used Oil Storage

Used oil generators are most commonly cited for not properly labeling their containers, aboveground tanks and fill pipes with the words "Used Oil." Fill pipes are pipes used to transfer used oil into underground storage unit tanks.

Container Management

Small and large quantity generators are commonly cited for improper container management. Containers that hold hazardous waste must be closed except when adding or removing hazardous waste.

While conditionally exempt, small quantity generators of hazardous waste do not have to comply with the container management or emergency equipment requirements, they are encouraged to follow these preventative measures.

You also must ensure that your hazardous waste containers are not opened, handled or stored in a manner which may rupture the container or cause it to leak.

Areas where hazardous waste containers are stored, must be inspected at least weekly to look for leaks and deterioration caused by corrosion or other factors. You also must record your container storage area inspections in a log or summary.

Testing and Maintenance of Equipment

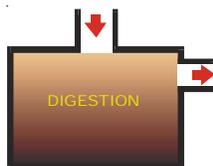
Small and large quantity generators of hazardous waste are frequently cited for failure to test and maintain their emergency equipment. These generators must test and maintain all facility communications or alarm systems, fire protection equipment, spill control equipment and decontamination equipment to ensure its proper operation in time of emergency. You also must record these inspections in a log or summary.

Need Help?

Both the Division of Hazardous Waste Management (DHWM) and Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) have resources to help you understand and comply with your hazardous waste requirements and determine your generator status. You can contact DHWM at (614) 644-2917 or www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm and OCAPP at www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp or (800) 329-7518.

Converting Digester Gas Into Electricity Using Microturbines - An OTCO Presentation

On February 8 and 9, 2005, the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention had the opportunity to attend the Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) 42nd Annual Wastewater Workshop and Exhibition. This two-day conference provided updates in wastewater treatment regulations and latest technology.



One of the topics discussed at the conference was related to using microturbines to convert digester gas into electricity. This is an ongoing project at the City of Lima Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The presentation was given by Tom Ungar, a principal engineer at Montgomery Watson.

There are benefits to converting digester gas into electricity using microturbines. Free fuel is available in the form of the digester gas. This process is revenue-producing — both in “green” power and revenue payback; it provides an environmental solution as to what to do with the digester gas; and there is an increased gas output using heat recovery.

In a project such as this, environmental issues are always a concern, however, using this process means lower emissions of NO_x and SO_x (oxides of nitrogen and sulphur) and creates power from renewable sources. This results in reductions in greenhouse gases.

Microturbines have been shown to be the most efficient conversion technology. When compared to average U.S. fossil generation (38 percent) and combined cycle gas turbines (55 percent), microturbines produced the greatest recovery (70-90 percent).

The City of Lima’s WWTP project goals are four-fold. The first is to eliminate burning excess gas. The second is to recover heat and resnet it to the digesters. The third is to generate electricity for the WWTP. The final goal is to obtain a seven-year payback period. After several engineering corrections and overcoming several operational issues,

the project (building) was completed in February 2005. For more information, visit www.ohiowater.org/OTCO/sourcedata/2005_WWWS_PPT/Microturbine.pdf.

Announcing the 2005 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Energy

The Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Energy Efficiency works with individuals, communities, non-profit organizations, large and small businesses, industry and other government agencies to achieve its vision: A robust economy supported by multiple energy sources, energy efficiency and advanced technology with added value for the quality of life for all Ohioans.

The Governor’s Award for Excellence in Energy recognition program honors individuals, businesses, industries and organizations that have improved Ohio’s economic competitiveness and its environment through the effective, efficient and innovative use of energy. For 2005 Entry Guidelines, past award recipients and more information, please visit www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oe/Governor’sAward.htm. PROJECT ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 3, 2005. Please direct questions regarding the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Energy to Howard Tibbs at (614) 466-6797, (Fax) (614) 466-1864 or htibbs@odod.state.oh.us.

Aqueous Cleaner Regeneration System Passes Independent Test

The Iowa Waste Reduction Center tested the Ecoshield Environmental Systems ACRS-1000 to confirm claims made by the manufacturer that the unit could restore the cleaning ability of a spent solution. Testing showed that the ACRS increased the lifespan of the cleaning bath significantly. A solution treated with the ACRS was able to clean about 80 percent as well as a new bath, even after cleaning twice as many parts as a control solution. To download the final evaluation report, visit www.iwrc.org/programs/ozoneWasher.cfm.

Need Help?

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free and confidential. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

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Compliance and Prevention Quarterly

Published by Ohio EPA's
Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention
Michael Kelley, Chief
Ellen Miller, Editor

Please direct your comments and address changes to:

Ellen Miller
Ohio EPA
Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
(614) 644-3469
ellen.miller@epa.state.oh.us
www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/CPQ/cpqnewslett.html

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 Joseph P. Koncelik, Director
 Ohio EPA-OCAPP
 P.O. Box 1049
 Columbus, OH 43216-1049