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Ohio EPA Proposes Rules to Implement Federal Greenhouse Gas Regulations in Ohio

Proposed rules that would require only very large emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) to obtain clean air permits for their Ohio operations are the focus of an Ohio EPA public hearing on February 11, 2011. These rules were originally adopted as emergency rules through a Governor's [executive order](#) on December 30, 2010.

Beginning January 2, 2011, states were required by U.S. EPA to begin permitting greenhouse gas emissions from "major sources" of greenhouse gases. Ohio EPA's proposed rules will provide certainty to the business community by restricting Ohio's greenhouse gas regulatory requirements to only those large sources covered by U.S. EPA's regulations. There has been significant support from Ohio businesses for Ohio to have these rules in place.

U.S. EPA has adopted "tailoring" rules that raise the major source permitting threshold for greenhouse gases to 75,000 tons per year or 100,000 tons per year depending on the circumstances. Ohio EPA's proposed rules would permanently raise the emission levels that would trigger permitting in Ohio to the same levels as those adopted by the federal government.

Without these rules, it would not be sufficiently clear which emission thresholds triggered the need for greenhouse gas permitting. Millions of greenhouse gas sources across the country would be required to apply for and obtain major source permits under the Clean Air Act whenever they want to build, expand and operate. That would include small apartment buildings, retail complexes, fast food restaurants and other small businesses.

A public hearing to accept comments on these proposed rules will be held at 1:30 p.m. on February 11 at Ohio EPA, Lazarus Government Center, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700, Columbus. Visitors should bring a photo ID.

The emergency rules adopted on December 30 are valid for 90 days. For those rules to become permanent, Ohio EPA must adopt permanent rules before the emergency rules expire. The Agency is accepting comments on the proposed rules through the close of business on February 11.

The proposed rules are available [online](#). Contact [Mike Ahern](#) at Ohio EPA, (614) 644-3631 for questions or comments about these rules. Comments can be [e-mailed](#) or mailed to Mike Ahern, Ohio EPA, Division of Air Pollution Control, Lazarus Government Center, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.