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**CONTACT:** Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160

## **Ohio EPA Updates General Air Permits**

Ohio EPA is taking comments on draft general permits-to-install and - operate (PTIO) that apply to certain diesel engines, and has finalized general PTIOs covering mineral extraction, aggregate processing and aggregate processors using portable units. The Agency is taking public comments on draft general permits through June 24, 2011.

General permits have been developed to cover three types of diesel engines that were built in 2006 or earlier, and have different requirements that would apply based on a unit's power range capability:

- greater than 300 horsepower and less than or equal to 500 horsepower;
- greater than 500 horsepower and less than or equal to 600 horsepower; and
- greater than 600 horsepower and less than or equal to 1,100 horsepower.

These general permits would address requirements for diesel engines to comply with U.S. EPA's national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. The draft general permits would require only quality diesel fuel oil be burned in the engines; restrict the number of diesel engines operating at a facility based on an emissions certification; and set a rolling 12-month limit on a facility's diesel fuel usage. The owner or operator of a facility must apply to Ohio EPA to be covered under general permits, demonstrating they meet qualifications. Otherwise, individual permits are required. The general permit option greatly speeds up the permitting process for those who qualify.

In addition, three new air pollution general permits-to-install and - operate are now available for mineral extraction, aggregate processing and aggregate processors using portable units. Those wishing to apply to be covered under these processes can find [applications and instructions](#) on the general permit section of Ohio EPA's air pollution control website.

There are two types of discharge permits: general and individual. An individual permit is specific to a facility, the location, the emissions unit and other unique characteristics of the emissions source. When many individual permits contain very similar or identical requirements, and impacts are considered to be minimal, a general permit may be developed. A general permit covers all facilities with similar emissions meeting the same eligibility criteria. Public comments on the conditions of a general permit are considered when the general permit is created or reviewed, rather than for each project. Statewide general permits are reviewed and revised every five years.

Comments on the draft general permit can be e-mailed to [Cheryl Suttman](#) or mailed to her attention at Ohio EPA, Division of Air Pollution Control, Lazarus Government Center, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.