

Calculating Potential Air Emissions

By: Dan Fitch

Minnesota Rule 7007 requires any facility that has the potential to release pollutants into the air, exceeding State thresholds, to have an air permit. In Minnesota, these permits are issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Calculating a facility's potential to emit (PTE) is the first step in determining if an air permit is required. Determining your facility's PTE requires the identification of all emission sources, the pollutants released by those sources, and the amount of pollutants released if the emission source were working at maximum design capacity for 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The actual emissions will be significantly less than the PTE; however, the PTE is what determines the type of permit needed, if any. Common sources of emissions in school facilities include boilers, make-up air units, and emergency generators.

The EPA Standards for sulfur content in diesel fuel have changed in recent years. This change may affect facilities that currently have an air permit. As of June 2006, the maximum sulfur content allowed in diesel fuel is 15 parts per million (ppm). This is significantly less than the 5,000 ppm standard for sulfur content in #2 fuel oil. Because of the similar nature between diesel fuel and #2 fuel oil, many suppliers are now selling low sulfur #2 fuel oil which meets these same standards.

If your facility currently has an air permit due to potential sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions, we recommend you contact your fuel oil supplier to determine the sulfur content of the oil you purchase. It's possible that the content is lower now than it was when you first calculated PTE for your facility. If it is lower, recalculate to see if the potential SO₂ emissions are below permit thresholds, in which case an air permit may no longer be necessary.

For more information about air emission permits or calculating your facilities potential to emit (PTE), visit the MPCA website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/permits/index.html>, or email danf@ieainstitute.com.



November 9-13 is Winter Hazard Awareness Week

For safety tips, videos, and other resources, visit

www.winterweather.state.mn.us

Or call the MN Department of Public Safety—
Division of Emergency Management at
651.201.7424

NOTICE

The federal poster on Equal Employment Opportunity has been updated to include GINA (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008). The new information is required to be posted by November 21, 2009.

Free copies of the new poster or a supplement can be found at:

<http://www.eeoc.gov/posterform.html>



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