



Permit Section News

We have a new engineer on staff. Ali Taremi reported to work on October 15. He was working for industry in St. Louis and had worked for Water Quality prior to that. He is in the Existing Source Unit and we are glad he is here!!

The initial round of Title V applications that were submitted to AQD on or before March 6, 1999, is nearly completed. There are only about 65 of them left to issue and 40 of those we expect will be issued within the next six months. The remaining facilities are the more complicated ones that will be issued as soon as possible. In the past three years we have issued 80, 81, and 90 Title V operating permits and it appears that we will once again issue about 80 this year.

Title V renewals begin in 2002 and the staff has begun to prepare. We have also begun several technical workgroups that will study ways to streamline our process and improve our permits. These groups will tackle the more difficult issues that plague both the industry and AQD.

AQD Staff Changes

We are very pleased to announce that no one has left Air Quality since August. We are equally pleased to announce the addition of Ali Taremi (see Permitting Section News above), and Rob Nixon, Environmental Programs Specialist in the Technical Resources and Projects Section.

Power plant applications continue to work their way through the system. So far, since 1999, we have issued 8 construction permits for new plants. We have 9 currently in review. There have been 3 construction permits issued for modifications to existing plants.

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Your opinion is valuable to us! We would like to know what you think of *Air Quality Update* and the types of articles you would like to read. Please send suggestions and comments to randy.ward@deq.state.ok.us.

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Notes From the AQD Director

During the past year, the Air Quality Division staff has produced excellent work under the ever-growing pressures of additional mandates with fewer resources. In an attempt to ease these pressures and maintain the services we currently provide, the Division has elected, along with the rest of the Agency, to seek an increase in our existing revenue streams.

We are currently seeking additional Air Quality funding in the amount of \$2.6 million, of which \$1.1 million is being sought from an increase in major (Title V) and minor source fees, and \$1.5 million from legislative appropriations. We are proposing that the fee for the major sources increase \$4.18/ton-from \$18.10/ton to \$22.28/ton-for fee year 2003. The minor source fee would also be adjusted to match the major sources at \$22.28/ton. While this is a

significant percentage increase in our fees (about 23%), compared to the surrounding states, we believe it is still a bargain for our Oklahoma fee payers.

If we are able to increase our funding to these levels, we plan to fill 18 currently unfunded FTE's within our division. This would give us staffing levels corresponding to former allotments which were not funded by the fee increase we received in 1999. This is not a request for new FTE's. The FTE's would be distributed throughout the division but would be primarily concentrated in our engineering and technical support areas.

Currently, we have a \$900,000 deficit in the non-Title V portion of our program. It is a virtual certainty that we will have ozone nonattainment issues to address in the near future. Expenditures related to nonattainment issues will put additional pressure on the non-Title V deficit. Non-attainment expenditures will likely cause the Title V deficit to increase dramatically if we don't take steps to address this now. If we do not receive additional non-Title V revenues, our services to smaller sources will probably have to be reduced. Failure to receive the funding from the Title V portion of our program will likely result in a shift away from our outreach technical work and the work we do nationally and regionally, especially with CenSARA and CenRAP (regional haze).

I have every confidence that we will be able to demonstrate our need for these additional resources. Regardless, we will continue to make our customers and employees our top priorities and do whatever we can to address the needs of both. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to address the challenges of providing the citizens of Oklahoma the healthiest air quality possible.

Eddie Terrill
 AQD Director

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What's New on the Air Quality Web Page

Along with many other large computer networks around the world, the DEQ in September was the victim of the computer virus Nimda. We were forced to shut down our internal network, and the DEQ webpage was closed through the first week of October to allow for added security. After the many phone calls and inquiries during the shutdown, we now have a much greater appreciation of the importance of the webpage and its resources. Due to this importance and some lingering problems, DEQ is rapidly moving forward with plans for the new DEQ web page. Watch for the all-new and improved DEQ and Air Quality sites to be on-line before Christmas. We think everyone will agree the new pages are clearer, faster, and much-improved over the current ones.

As of October 15th, the State of Oklahoma has a new official state web page: www.YourOklahoma.com. YourOklahoma.com is designed to be an electronic "portal" to state government, and is only the first step in a long process to bring many government functions and services on-line. Already the site has active links to all state agencies (including DEQ), and a state government calendar.



The Lead-Based Paint Corner

New Lead Hazard Standards

On January 5, 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published in the Federal Register, standards and definitions for the identification of Lead-based Paint (LBP) hazards and additional amendments to 40 CFR 745. As part of DEQ's federally delegated LBP Program, 40 CFR 745 is incorporated by reference into OAC 252:110, Lead-Based Paint Management. Our staff promptly amended OAC 252:110 to incorporate EPA's Lead Hazard Standards. These amendments passed the Air Quality Council on April 18, 2001 and the Environmental Quality Board on June 26, 2001. The amendments will become effective pending Governor Keating's signature.

Air Quality Council News

The Air Quality Council met on Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 9 a.m. at the Forest Heritage Center in Beavers Bend State Park near Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The Council was hosted in the area by Weyerhaeuser who presented a tour of the Valliant facility. The leaves were fabulous!

The Council held public rulemaking hearings on OAC 252:100-4, New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). Staff proposed an update of the incorporations by reference of the federal NSPS to include changes promulgated by EPA from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001. The new NSPS being added are 40 CFR 60 Subparts AAAA and CCCC. Previously incorporated NSPS that have been amended by EPA since July 1, 2000 are Subparts Db and Da and Appendices A and B.

Staff also proposed an update of the incorporations by reference of the federal National Emission Standards of Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) through amendment OAC 252:100-41-15. Paragraph 15(a) incorporates the NESHAP, specified in 40 CFR 61, as they existed on July 1, 2001. Paragraph 15(b) incorporates by reference new and amended Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards for hazardous air pollutants in 40CFR Part 63 that were promulgated by the EPA from July 1, 2000 through July 1, 2001. The new MACT standards to be added are 40 CFR 63 Subparts MM, GGGG, and CCC.

Both of these proposals were recommended by the Council to the Environmental Quality Board and subsequently approved at their November 13th meeting in Okmulgee.

In addition, staff made presentations concerning OAC 252:100-5-2.2(b) Registration, Emission Inventory and Annual Operating Fees. The Department is proposing increases in the annual operating fees from \$17.12 to \$22.28 per ton of regulated pollutant (for fee calculation) for both minor facilities and Part 70 sources. The fee increase will generate additional income to cover current and anticipated staffing requirements in administering the Department's programs. The matter was continued to the December Council Meeting.



The next Air Quality Council Meeting will be held in Oklahoma City in the DEQ building at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2001. The public is welcome.

Ozone News

The latest news from EPA is that they will probably not be able to develop implementation guidance for the 8-hour ozone standard and make nonattainment designations until the end of calendar year 2003. The improving news is that all ozone sites with enough data to make an 8-hour standard determination last year, have recorded lower values this year. The good news is that most of the Oklahoma ozone monitoring sites are measuring attainment of the 8-hour standard. The not-so good news is that an ozone monitoring site in Tulsa county, and possibly a site in Cherokee county are measuring nonattainment of the standard.

Excess Emissions Reporting

Excess emissions reporting, as it is described in OAC 252:100-9, is conducted when there is an emission of a regulated pollutant that is above the permitted levels. Once the excursion has occurred, the facility has 24 hours to call 1-877-277-6236 or fax a brief description to 1-405-702-4101. These phone reports are tracked. The next step for the facility is to provide the department with a written report describing the emission within 10 business days. In the past this was accomplished by the company writing the reports in various formats. Recently, however, we have implemented the use of an approved standard excess emission form. This form, which can now be downloaded from the DEQ Air Quality web page, will allow for a more uniform format of reporting excess emissions. In the near future we hope to have this system set up so that the reporting can be accomplished electronically and sent in with an electronic signature. But for now, once the written reports or forms are received, the data provided is entered into our TEAM database for inspectors to access and examine.

Wind Power Surge

Oklahoma is ranked #8 in the U.S. for its wind energy potential. Chermac Energy Corporation has a plan to put that potential to work. Construction will soon begin on the first of two proposed wind turbine farms in Harper County. The two facilities together could generate 120 megawatts of electricity, enough to support 20,000 homes.

The benefits of wind power are no longer on the sideline. Advancements in equipment design and technology have resulted in decreased costs and narrowing the cost-gap between wind and conventional generation systems. The environmental benefits of wind energy are noteworthy. Wind energy produces no emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Wind energy is a winning alternative and supplement to conventional power production.

For more information about wind energy consult the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative at www.seic.okstate.edu/owpai/ or the American Wind Energy Association at www.awea.org.

