

Summary of Air Permit Streamlining Listening Session comments by city and category (DRAFT)

Comments by city

Eau Claire

- Analyze small sources for combined air impact in an area
- Improve public information for filing complaints and the kinds of information needed to be provided to the Department for complaints
- Improve the explanation of the public hearing process (explain with notice or provide an online video)
- Assist in making citizens more informed for participation in public hearings
- Improve online applications (current forms were built with technology from 1993)
- Improve application forms
- Department needs firm timeframes for responding to permit applications
- Improve post-hearing follow-up with public (post hearing results on web site)
- Modify HAP regulations as it is difficult to quantify all NR 445 HAP emissions
- Do not reduce standards or quality of work in the name of streamlining (emission requirements and potential for public involvement)
- Appreciate Department efforts to streamline
- Simplify op renewal for “clean” facilities (emissions much below allowed levels)
- Prioritize op renewal based on compliance record
- Allow for non-5 year renewal operation permits
- Do not allow new guidance to change rules
- Provide guidance on converting ROP to FOP, SOP or FESOP
- Provide better notification to general public (local newspapers...)
- Track complaints and response times online
- DNR should adopt a silica standard
- Include a plain language explanation of permits (what a company is allowed to do) with all permits
- Provide one live central phone number for the public to speak to someone regarding air issues

Mosinee

- Categorize non-DNR (EPA) guidance as to whether the Department agrees with the guidance and whether it should be used in WI
- Averaging periods should be included for all emission limitations
- Department needs to clarify how it incorporates plan requirements in permits
- Exempt projects that are undertaken to comply with federal rules and have lower emissions from construction permitting
- Allow more construction activities prior to the issuance of a construction permit
- Always share draft permits with applicants prior to public comment
- Allow modeling to be performed by “certified” or “pre-approved” persons and then not reviewed by department
- Improve availability of guidance and provide for a system that notifies people when guidance is changed

- Develop a process for correcting PDs which are incorrect
- Make modeling guidance available via email
- Expand the PSD staff
- If we are making a permanent switch to a cleaner fuel, modeling or permit revision should not be necessary
- DNR should perform a table top look at how many hands have to handle a permit and then eliminate unnecessary hands

Milwaukee

- Allow for thermal control of CO emissions in the ROP
- Improve electronic submittal of applications
 - o Accept .pdf application in lieu of paper copies
 - o Only a paper signature page
 - o Provide for confidential information processing
- Allow for NAAQS compliance to be demonstrated other than by dispersion modeling
- Look at varying definition of exacerbate depending on source size
- Keep MACT and NSPS rules up-to-date
- Develop a printer GOP for major printer HAP sources
- Allow more construction without a permit
- Exempt like-kind equipment replacements from NR 406
- Allow for alternative (cleaner fuels) to be exempt from NR 406
- Develop a coating GOP that parallels the printer GOP
- Exempt all minor sources from all modeling, especially PM2.5
- Or at least buffer modeling for minor sources
- Have an exacerbation threshold similar to the current SIL (demonstrated by modeling)
- Rework the applicable regulation section of application forms to make it more useful
- Make exacerbation a SIP revision
- Regulate by emission rather than material throughput
- Develop a conditions library

Green Bay

- Define cause or exacerbate differently for PSD and minor sources
- Improve modeling guidance accessibility
- Always share draft permits
- Clarify plans and compliance issues
- Allow for parametric monitoring range changes without a permit action (this was also opposed)
- Maximize transparency in the permit process
- Streamlining limits public input and DNR review, do not undertake
- Have a DNR permit adviser that companies could contact anonymously to discuss permit issues
- Single phone number for general air contacts
- Improve open records process as the current process is too slow

- Define what a “legitimate” request for a public hearing is
- Improve public notice distribution
- 10 year life for all operation permits if not made permanent
- Define a criteria for permit renewal time based on emissions and/or compliance record
- Streamline the renewal process for non-change permits
- Make permits as short as possible, avoid any duplication
- Provide a de minimis threshold of throughput to define exacerbation
- Develop and publish a list of source classifications that by definition do not have the ability to cause and exacerbate
- Eliminate duplicate conditions in permits
- Exempt applicant from modeling if applicant can demonstrate a unit for unit offset in pollution for every unit of pollutant emitted in a given defined area (alternative to modeling)

Comments by category

Public information

- Improve public information for filing complaints and the kinds of information needed to be provided to the Department for complaints
- Improve the explanation of the public hearing process (explain with notice or provide an online video)
- Assist in making citizens more informed for participation in public hearings
- Do not reduce standards or quality of work in the name of streamlining (emission requirements and potential for public involvement)
- Appreciate Department efforts to streamline
- Track complaints and response times online
- Include a plain language explanation of permits with all permits (what a company is allowed to do)
- Maximize transparency in the permit process
- Streamlining limits public input and DNR review, do not undertake
- Define what a “legitimate” request for a public hearing is
- Improve public notice distribution

Applications and application forms

- Improve online applications (current forms were built with technology from 1993)
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- Department needs firm timeframes for responding to permit applications
- Improve post-hearing follow-up with public (post hearing results on web site)
- Improve electronic submittal of applications
 - o Accept .pdf application in lieu of paper copies
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- Rework the applicable regulation section of application forms to make it more useful

Modeling/C&E

- Allow modeling to be performed by “certified” or “pre-approved” persons and then not reviewed by department
- Allow for NAAQS compliance to be demonstrated other than by dispersion modeling
- Look at varying definition of exacerbate depending on source size
- Exempt minor sources from all modeling, especially PM2.5
- Or at least buffer modeling for minor sources
- Have an exacerbation threshold similar to the current SIL (demonstrated by modeling)
- Make exacerbation a SIP revision
- Make modeling guidance available via email
- If we are making a permanent switch to a cleaner fuel, modeling or permit revision should not be necessary
- Define cause or exacerbate differently for PSD and minor sources

- Improve modeling guidance accessibility
- Provide a de minimis threshold of throughput to define exacerbation
- Develop and publish a list of source classifications that by definition do not have the ability to cause and exacerbate
- Exempt applicant from modeling if applicant can demonstrate a unit for unit offset in pollution for every unit of pollutant emitted in a given defined area (alternative to modeling)

Pre-construction activities

- Allow more construction activities prior to the issuance of a construction permit
- Allow more construction without a permit

Permit content

- Averaging periods should be included for all emission limitations
- Department needs to clarify how it incorporates plan requirements in permits
- Clarify plans and compliance issues
- Allow for parametric monitoring range changes without a permit action (this was also opposed)
- Make permits as short as possible, avoid any duplication
- Develop a conditions library

GOPs/ROPs

- Allow for thermal control of CO emissions in the ROP
- Develop a printer GOP for major printer HAP sources
- Develop a coating GOP that parallels the printer GOP

Permit renewal

- Simplify op renewal for “clean” facilities (emissions much below allowed levels)
- Prioritize the need for op renewal based on compliance record
- Allow for non-5 year renewal operation permits
- 10 year life for all operation permits if not made permanent
- Define a criteria for permit renewal time based on emissions and/or compliance record
- Streamline the renewal process for non-change permits
- If we are making a permanent switch to a cleaner fuel, modeling or permit revision should not be necessary

Guidance

- Do not allow new guidance to change rules
- Provide guidance on converting ROP to FOP, SOP or FESOP
- Categorize non-DNR (EPA) guidance as to whether the Department agrees with the guidance and whether it should be used in WI
- Improve availability of guidance and provide for a system that notifies people when guidance is changed
- Regulate by emission rather than material throughput

Exemptions

- Exempt projects that are undertaken to comply with federal rules and have lower emissions from construction permitting
- Exempt like-kind equipment replacements from NR 406
- Allow for alternative (cleaner fuels) to be exempt from NR 406

Permit review

- Always share draft permits with applicants prior to public comment
- Develop a process for correcting PDs which are incorrect
- Expand the PSD staff

Others

- Modify HAP regulations as it is difficult to quantify all NR 445 HAP emissions
- DNR should adopt a silica standard
- Keep MACT and NSPS rules up-to-date
- Have a DNR permit adviser that companies could contact anonymously to discuss permit issues
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Not from listening sessions

Other streamlining ideas

- Allow for application to be automatically withdrawn after one year of inactivity (after department request for info)
- Improve construction waiver process
- Insignificant units for construction permits (similar to op permits)
- Emergency fire pump exemption
- Change emergency definition to be consistent with federal definition
- Clarify partial replacement exclusion
- Clarify exclusions in general
- No waiver/GCP allowed for projects that have started construction prior to receiving waiver/GCP
- 50% ROP
- Natural minor exclusion from operation permits
- Shorter public comment period for “non-controversial” permits
- Improve guidance on permit applicability and exemptions
- Allow for administrative revisions for construction permits
- Make SOPs and FESOPs permanent
- Improve the usability of the minor permit revision language
- Incorporate construction permit conditions as a minor revision of an operation permit