

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) **Permitting** **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Disclaimer

This document is intended to serve as guidance only, and does not take the place of any rule or law. This document may not reflect changes in rule or law that occur after the date noted below. Please contact DNR for the most recent applicable rules.

Finally Linn and Polk Counties have their own permit programs and may have differing or additional guidance.

1. Under what authority does Iowa operate the PSD program?

Iowa's PSD program is part of a federally approved State Implementation Plan (SIP), 40 CFR 52.820 through 52.834 including the State rules contained in IAC [567] Chapter 33.

2. Does Iowa charge fees for permits or reviews?

The Department does not currently charge fees for any air permit review or issuance.

3. What method does Iowa use to determine BACT?

Iowa uses the top-down approach. For more details, see the department's PSD guidance <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryAir/ConstructionPermits/Guidance.asp> and Chapter B in EPA's 1990 Draft NSR Workshop Manual. <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/publications.html> or <http://www.epa.gov/region07/programs/artd/air/nsr/nsrmemos/1990wman.pdf>. More information regarding the BACT determination process can be found in a BACT FAQ on these pages.

4. *How long does it take to obtain a PSD permit in Iowa?*

The department makes every effort to process PSD permits as quickly as possible, however, the combination of the many complex issues that need to be satisfactorily addressed and the public participation requirements of PSD effect permit issuance time. The process will be faster if the applicant works with the department to resolve technical issues and goes through the pre-application meeting process. It is the department's goal to issue all PSD permits within 180 days of receiving the application..

5. *Should I request a pre-application meeting with IDNR?*

Yes, although a pre-application is not required. Without a pre-application meeting the 180 day timeline for a PSD permit application cannot be guaranteed. More information about the pre-application meeting can be found in companion guidance on these web pages.

6. *What is the time frame for a minor change to a PSD permit?*

The department makes every effort to process PSD permits as quickly as possible, however, it is not always possible to determine which applications will be complicated. Even if the project doesn't have any complications, the documentation and public participation requirements involved in any PSD amendment takes approximately 90 days to complete.

7. *What if a project waits for assignment, do you still meet the 180 day goal?*

We count any time after the project is received as counting towards the 180 day goal including time waiting for staff to become available. The Department will try its best to meet the 180 day goal but sometimes issues arise that simply cannot be resolved in 180 days. It is our intension that any significant issues that would delay permit issuance would be identified during the pre-application meeting(s) and can be avoided during the review of the application.

8. *When does EPA Region 7 get involved in PSD projects in Iowa?*

EPA is allowed to review and to comment on all draft PSD permits. EPA will participate earlier in the permitting process, if requested. In addition, the department often involves EPA early on to minimize delays at the end of the review process.

9. *EPA has a copy of the application. The Department staff asks questions. What type of interaction is there between the two agencies and what type of questions?*

There is a significant amount of interaction between the two agencies (as well as the various states) by phone, e-mail, video conferences and face-to-face meetings on a broad range of issues. This includes discussions of new NSPS or NESHAP applicability, recent BACT determinations that may not be in the RACT / BACT / LAER database, and new or recent policy guidelines that have been established. Determinations, however, are transmitted in writing as are EPA comments on permit applications and draft permits. The Department will review these comments and incorporate the comments as

appropriate.

The Department makes all final determinations taking into account EPA's comments as well as other properly submitted comments.

Under exceptional circumstances, however, EPA does reserve the authority to directly involve itself in the permitting, construction and operation of major stationary sources.

10. If an EPA policy review is requested, what impact does that have on the 180 day goal?

Generally, if a policy determination from EPA is necessary the delay will cause the process to exceed the 180 day goal. The specific situation will dictate how long the project may be delayed.

11. Does the Department look at all pollutants for PSD?

The Department reviews all pollutants that are emitted by the emission unit(s) being permitted. Specifically, the Department reviews all PSD pollutants for the PSD program and other pollutants as related to their specific programs (i.e.: HAP for NESHAP).

12. What is required in terms of preconstruction monitoring?

The applicant is responsible for providing preconstruction monitoring for each pollutant subject to PSD review as set forth in 40 CFR 52.21(m) which the department has approved by reference in 567I.A.C.33.3(11). This can be satisfied in several methods: use of private air monitoring for at least one year, use of existing Department air data, or modeling below significant monitoring levels. The applicant shall determine if preconstruction monitoring is required and, if so, how the requirement will be met.

If either the predicted ambient impact or existing ambient pollutant concentrations are less than the prescribed significant monitoring value found at 40CFR 52.21(i) (5) (i) , the Department can exempt the applicant from preconstruction monitoring. For details, contact the permit engineer assigned to the project.

If ambient air monitoring is required, the applicant must provide at least one year of representative air quality data that represents the period immediately prior to the PSD application submittal date for any criteria pollutant that is proposed to be emitted in significant amounts. The applicant must justify the monitoring data you choose to use.

The applicant may be able to use the Department's existing ambient monitors to satisfy this Requirement. Data from the monitoring sites may be found at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryAir/MonitoringAmbientAir.aspx>. If using Departmental monitoring data, there is no need to supply quality assurance documentation.

If the Departmental data cannot be utilized, your company will need to operate a site-specific air monitoring network. In this case you will need to submit the siting information and quality assurance documentation for the monitoring results.

13. *What is involved in a soil and vegetation impacts analysis?*

The applicant is responsible for conducting a soil and vegetation analysis based on an inventory of the soils and vegetation types found in the area including all vegetation with any commercial or recreational value. This analysis must include a real inventory as a generalized statement as to cropping patterns is not sufficient.

Once an inventory of soils and vegetation has been completed, it is expected that the applicant will conduct a literature search to determine the sensitivity of these soils and vegetation to each of the pollutants that will be emitted in significant amounts. General references to secondary Ambient Standards or modeling impact levels is not sufficient.

This information should be compared to the predicted concentrations determined from the modeling analyses.

14. *Does DNR provide any documentation for evaluating soil and vegetation impacts other than the document provided on your website?*

The applicant is responsible for determining the sensitivity of various soils and vegetation. Information can be obtained through a literature search and contacts with local universities and experts on local soils and vegetation

More information is available on the Department's dispersion modeling web page <http://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/InsideDNR/RegulatoryAir/Modeling/DispersionModeling.aspx> under the "PSD Modeling Guidance" tab. This includes a Departmental "Soils and Vegetation Analysis Tool" and the EPA documents "A Screening Procedure for the Impacts of Air Pollution Sources on Plant, Soils, and Animals," EPA 450-81-078, December 12, 1980 and "Air Quality Criteria for Oxides of Nitrogen – Vegetation Impacts," EPA Region 7, May 13, 2002.

Some additional references are listed in EPA's draft "New Source Review Workshop Manual", October 1990. In addition, EPA's superfund program has established Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs) that may be helpful. Also potentially helpful in addressing vegetation of recreational value are the Federal Land Manager (FLM) Federal Land Managers Air Quality Related Values Workgroup (FLAG) Reports. Finally the USDA and many state agricultural extension services have materials about air pollution impacts for various agricultural and garden crops.