

## Vermont Air Quality and Climate Division

### Jurisdiction over Stationary Sources of Air Contaminants

#### ***Background***

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Air Quality and Climate Division is charged with implementing a coordinated statewide program of air pollution prevention, abatement, and control, which includes permitting and regulating certain sources of air contaminants. Air contaminant" means dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous substances, or any combination thereof. The size of sources within the AQCD's jurisdictions depends on the type of source and what levels of air contaminants are being emitted.

#### ***Permitting***

The AQCD Permitting & Engineering Section implements two permitting programs for the control of air pollution from stationary sources: [Permits to Construct](#), which are required prior to commencing construction or modification of an air pollution emitting facility to ensure necessary emission controls are designed and built into the project from the beginning, and [Permits to Operate](#), which incorporate all air pollution related requirements a facility is subject to and is renewed every 5 years to keep it up-to-date with any new requirements. Both permit programs incorporate the respective federal Clean Air Act permit program requirements for Permits to Construct and Permits to Operate that Vermont is delegated by the U.S. EPA to implement. While the Clean Air Act requirements are incorporated into the state programs, Vermont is given discretion to implement stricter standards and programs than the federal government and does in fact have lower permitting thresholds and standards than those required in the Clean Air Act. A facility need only obtain the applicable state air permits and need not obtain separate air permits from the federal U.S. EPA.

Projects are reviewed for both traditional pollutants, namely carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and toxic or hazardous air pollutants. The permit application and subsequent review is intended to identifying the type of pollution to be emitted, the composition of the pollution emitted, where in the process(es) it may be emitted, what form it may be emitted (e.g. gaseous or particulate), if it is directly emitted (e.g. dusts, solvents) or if it is chemically formed or altered (e.g. combustion and reaction intermediaries), the quantities and concentrations of these compounds emitted, what impact on air quality will result, and what emission control or emission reduction measures may be necessary or appropriate.

#### ***Regulations***

Certain sources must operate pursuant to the Air Pollution Control Regulations, regardless of whether or not they are permitted. Wood fuel burning equipment, sources of hazardous air contaminants, and facilities that emit volatile organic compounds are all examples of sources that must adhere to regulatory requirements unless otherwise exempt.

For more information on what types of sources are regulated and/or permitted, and how:  
<https://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/permits/source-categories>