

Environmental A L E R T

NJDEP Issues New Permits for Boilers & Heaters

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has issued two (2) new general permits for boilers with a gross heat input of 1 million BTU/hr or greater. General Permit 017, which applies to boilers or heaters with a gross heat input of less than 5 million BTU/hr, and General Permit 018, which applies to boilers or heaters with a gross heat input of less than 10 million BTU/hr, will be available for use on April 2, 2009. These new General Permits are available for your reference at www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/gpupdate.html.

Your current boiler air permit, either GP-006 or GP-006A, will continue to be valid until the expiration date noted on the Certificate to Operate. However, you will be unable to renew your current boiler air permit once it has expired. At that time, you must register your equipment for the appropriate new general permit (GP-017 or GP-018). As NJDEP notes, "Failure to comply with N.J.A.C. 7:27-19 rule changes or improper registration/permitting of boilers and/or heaters will result in enforcement action."

The transition to these new general air permits will not be automatic. Permittees are required to register for the new permits once their old permits have expired or if they change, or replace, the permitted equipment in question.

GP-017: Boiler(s) each less than 5 MMBtu/hr

This general air permit will permit one or more boilers with an individual gross heat input of 1.0 MMBtu/hr, but less than 5.0 MMBTU/hr. A facility may only have one (1) GP-017 at a time, and can register multiple boilers on the same permit. Facilities must select one (1) of three (3) potential-to-emit (PTE) options when registering for this General Permit. One PTE option requires that when multiple boilers are listed on the same permit, their total combined maximum heat input rates are less than 30 million BTU/hr. Boilers and/or heaters registered under this option may burn natural gas, No. 2 fuel oil, B5 Biodiesel, propane and/or kerosene. The second PTE option is based on the maximum allowable gaseous fuel limit for each consecutive 12 month period. Boilers and/or

heaters burning natural gas and/or propane registered under this option cannot exceed 400 million cubic feet of fuel usage annually. The third PTE option is also based on a maximum fuel limit; however, applies to liquid fuel rather than gaseous fuel. Under this option, boilers and/or heaters may burn No. 2 fuel oil, B5 biodiesel and/or kerosene, and may not exceed 2 million gallons of fuel usage annually. A fuel totalizer is required if the facility chooses the second or third PTE option. Only boilers burning natural gas, No. 2 fuel oil (up to 5% bioadditives), propane or kerosene are permitted by GP-017. In addition, the facility must keep copies of fuel receipts showing sulfur content of less than 0.2% by weight. Opacity inspections for visible emissions will be required as well.

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GP-018 – Boiler(s) each less than 10 MMBtu/hr

This general air permit will permit one or more boilers with an individual gross heat input of 5.0 MMBtu/hr but less than 10.0 MMBTU/hr. A facility may only have one (1) GP-018 at a time, and can register multiple boilers on the same permit. As with the GP-017 (above), a maximum combined size (30 million BTU/hr) or fuel limit restrictions (400 million cubic feet or 2 million gallons of fuel usage) limit the number of boilers you can list on one permit. Only boilers burning natural gas, No. 2 fuel oil (up to 5% bioadditives), propane or kerosene are permitted by GP-018. An annual combustion adjustment (N.J.A.C 7:27-19) is required, which includes inspections of the flame patterns, air-to fuel ratio and boiler exhaust sampling for NO_x, CO and O₂, before and after every tune-up. Beginning in 2012, results of annual testing will be required to be submitted electronically to the NJDEP. Opacity inspections for visible emissions will also be required as with the GP-017.

General Air Permit Registration

Facilities have the option of submitting a completed paper application to the NJDEP for a \$500 fee; or completing a permit application online for a reduced fee of \$350. The NJDEP has recently added the ability to complete a permit application online and receive a paper bill through the mail as opposed to its previous policy of requiring an electronic payment at the time of completing the online application. More information regarding the completion of NJDEP general air permits online can be found at the following website:
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/online/>

If you operate a boiler and/or heater that is currently not

permitted through the NJDEP and require assistance determining applicability, or if you need assistance determining which general air permits your facility currently operates, please contact Matthew Mee (mmee@birdsall.com) of PMK Group, a Birdsall Services Group Business Unit, at 1-800-879-6681.

