

Erie Renewable Energy Air Quality Application —Frequently Asked Questions—

Question— What is Erie Renewable Energy proposing?

Answer— Erie Renewable Energy submitted an application for an air quality permit on December 6, 2007. The company is proposing to construct and operate a tire-to-energy plant on the South Yard and Dunn Brickyard portions of the former International Paper site between East Lake Road and East 10th Street in Erie. The company proposes to combust waste tire chips with the purpose of using the captured heat to generate electricity.

Question— What is the role the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) plays in the proposed Erie Renewable Energy tire-to-energy project?

Answer – DEP is the agency designated to review environmental permit applications for proposed facilities. A plan approval is the first step in the air quality permitting process and is necessary before a facility can construct or modify most sources of air pollution. The second step in this process is the issuance of an operating permit. The operating permit can be issued once the facility demonstrates compliance with the plan approval requirements.

Question – What is the current status of the permit application?

Answer— DEP currently is evaluating air modeling and the health risk assessment that Erie Renewable Energy submitted. It likely will be fall 2009 before DEP completes its review of technical issues and the health risk assessment. The Pa. Department of Health also will conduct a health assessment to determine the project's potential health impact.

Question— How long will it take DEP to make its decision on whether a permit will be issued to Erie Renewable Energy for the tire to energy project?

Answer— The review process is expected to take several more months. If the health assessments show certain health risk parameters are exceeded, the company would have to develop measures to reduce those concerns. If the application meets all requirements under environmental regulations and statutes that apply, DEP will develop a draft plan approval that then will be open for public comment.

Question— Does the public have an opportunity to see the permit application?

Answer— Yes. Copies of the application and other related documents are available for public review at three Erie locations:

City of Erie Municipal Building
City Clerk's Office
626 State Street
Erie

Erie County Blasco Public Library
Reference Desk
160 East Front Street
Erie

Erie County Iroquois Avenue Branch Library
4212 Iroquois Avenue
Lawrence Park

At the Municipal Building and both Library locations, the application is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A copy of the application also is available for public review at the DEP Northwest Regional Office Records Center, 230 Chestnut Street, Meadville. Citizens who would like to review the application at the DEP Northwest Regional Office should call Linda Conaway, 814-332-6340, to schedule an appointment.

Question— Will there be opportunities for the public to comment on the permit application and the proposed project?

Answer— Yes. If the application proceeds to the point where a draft plan approval is developed, DEP will host a public meeting and a public hearing. At the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would review the draft plan approval. In addition, DEP will accept written comment on the application throughout the review period.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: Permits.