

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Amendments to the Hazardous Waste Regulations (25 Pa. Code Chapters 260a - 266a, 266b, 267a and 270a)

This proposal would amend the hazardous waste regulations. These changes are being proposed to address the Secretary's directive to review and revise all DEP regulations to implement the goals contained in the Administration's priorities of increased environmental protection and improved human quality of life.

The proposed rulemaking includes revisions to remove obsolete provisions and correct inaccurate references currently in the regulations; delete the outdated co-product transition scheme; simplify the hazardous waste manifest system; update the financial assurance requirements for bonding; expand and clarify the universal waste requirements; correct an outdated reference to the EQB in the hazardous waste facilities siting criteria and add provisions for standardized permits.

The specific Administration priorities addressed in this proposal include:

- Improving the permitting process by incorporating the federal standardized permits provision and including regulatory provisions to accomplish this. The standardized permit provision provides a streamlined process for generators of hazardous waste to obtain a permit to store wastes for greater than ninety days. A standardized permit process is also available to companies that generate hazardous waste at various locations but want to establish a treatment facility at one generation location for hazardous wastes generated at all locations.
- Changes to the bonding requirements will improve the reliability of money available to properly close a hazardous waste facility. This proposal replaces the financial test and corporate guarantee with the option to use an insurance policy for closure.
- A minor correction to the regulation for corrective action for solid waste management units will eliminate an impediment for Pennsylvania to receive federal authorization, which would provide increased flexibility and further encourage brownfields redevelopment.
- Simplification of reporting requirements for hazardous waste manifests and universal wastes.
- Addition of two new universal wastes that encourage recycling and proper management of hazardous wastes that might otherwise be disposed improperly.

This regulation will affect persons who generate, store, transport, dispose or treat hazardous waste in Pennsylvania.

On May 11, 2006, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee reviewed a draft of the proposed Annex A and voted to submit it to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration as proposed rulemaking.

A public comment period of 60 days is recommended for this proposal. No public meetings or hearings are deemed necessary for this proposal.