

Executive Summary

Proposed Rulemaking – Permit Streamlining

This proposed rulemaking would revise existing requirements and add sections to *25 Pa. Code* Chapter 127, Subchapter B (relating to plan approval requirements). The proposal revises Section 127.12b (relating to plan approval terms and conditions) by extending from 120 to 180 days the duration for temporary operation of the source to permit compliance testing and “shake-down” operation of new equipment subject to the plan approval requirements; adds a new Section 127.12d (relating to completeness determination) that outlines steps that will be taken in the event an applicant submits an incomplete application to the Department; revises Section 127.44 (relating to public notice) by providing for the publication of joint notice of receipt and intent to issue for certain plan approvals; and includes minor revisions to the content of notices required under Section 127.45 (relating to contents of notice required by § 127.44). In addition the proposal makes minor revisions to §127.48 (related to conferences and hearings).

As part of an effort to streamline the air quality permitting process, the Department investigated ways to reduce the plan approval application response time, reduce unnecessary costs to industry, and continue to ensure that citizens receive adequate notice of all potential plan approval/permitting actions to enable timely comment on issues of public concern. The proposed revisions would allow the Department to more promptly respond to applications for Plan Approval for minor permitting actions for needed production improvements. This reduced approval time will allow industry to be more responsive to market changes, and at the same time ensure that the public has an opportunity to comment on concerns related to a project.

This proposal was reviewed by the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) on March 13, 2006. The AQTAC concurred with the Department’s efforts to improve permit streamlining and the Department’s recommendation to present the regulation to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration for proposed rulemaking.

The Department recommends a 60-day public comment period with three public hearings.