

## **Availability of the Final General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Human or Animal Crematories (BAQ-GPA/GP-14)**

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has finalized the General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Human or Animal Crematories (BAQ-GPA/GP-14 or General Permit). On January 28, 2006, the Department published notice of availability of the proposed General Permit in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* (36 Pa. B. 447) and provided a 45-day public comment period. Comments were submitted on the proposed General Permit by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, concerning trained operators and adjustments to the burners when switching between “approved fuels.” The Department has prepared a Comment and Response Document that summarizes the comments and the changes that were made to the proposed General Permit.

This General Permit (BAQ-GPA/GP-14) applies to the construction, operation and modification of both new and existing human or animal crematories. Prior to commencing construction and/or operation under this General Permit, the permittee must notify the Department in writing, using the General Permit application provided by the Department, and receive prior written approval. The applicant seeking authorization to use the General Permit must also provide a letter from the local municipality and a letter from the county in which the unit(s) are located, or are proposed to be located, signed by public officials on their respective letterheads, stating that “the installation and/or operation of this crematory is not inconsistent with applicable comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances” or “all required zoning approvals or variances have been secured for the installation and/or operation of this crematory.” Owners or operators of permitted crematories may either continue to operate under an existing operating permit or may elect to apply for authorization to use this General Permit. The General Permit for Human or Animal Crematories (BAQ-GPA/GP-14) has been approved by the Department and is now available for use by qualifying applicants.

Contact Jeanette Van Skike, Bureau of Air Quality, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468, (717) 787-4325, to obtain copies of BAQ-GPA/GP-14 and related documents.

The documents have also been placed on the Department's website: [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) (DEP Keywords: Air Permits).

KATHLEEN A. MCGINTY  
Secretary