

MDEQ Proposes Revisions to NOx Emission Rules

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Air Quality Division (AQD) has proposed revisions to the oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emission regulations in Part 8 of the AQD Rules. These regulations apply to fossil fuel-fired electricity generating utility units and other emission units that have the potential to emit more than 25 tons of NOx during an “ozone control period” running from May 31, 2004 through September 30, 2004 and from May 1 through September 30 in each subsequent year.

The proposed revisions will change many aspects of the Part 8 Rules. The proposed changes include new definitions to clarify the meanings of “low-NOx burners,” “mid-kiln system firing” and other terms used in the Part 8 Rules. The proposal would also extend various deadlines in the existing Part 8 Rules by approximately one year.

Many of the proposed revisions pertain to the establishment of an elaborate emission trading program for NOx emissions from certain sources regulated under the Part 8 Rules. Collectively, these trading regulations would allow facilities that achieve greater NOx emission reductions than required under the Part 8 Rules to generate NOx emission credits that can be transferred to other qualified facilities subject to the Part 8 Rules to use to achieve compliance with the NOx emission limits in the Part 8 Rules. The NOx emission trading provisions are largely based on similar provisions in regulations promulgated by EPA.

New proposed Rule 817 would establish NOx emission standards for Portland cement kilns and new proposed Rule 818 would establish NOx emission standards for stationary internal combustion engines.

MDEQ accepted comments on the proposed revisions to the Part 8 Rules until December 3, 2001.

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