

DEP Compiling Information on Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions at POTW's

Springtime is here, and DEP's Air Toxics and Emission Inventory Section is preparing for their air emissions inventory reporting cycle. The Department of Environmental Protection's Chapter 137 requires facilities to report their emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) every three years. Chapter 137 lists 217 HAPs that you may need to report and the reporting thresholds for each. If a facility exceeds the reporting threshold for just one pollutant, they must report on all the HAPs they emit.

In reviewing emissions from Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), the Air Toxics and Emissions Inventory Section found that several plants are required to report air emissions because they release acrolein in excess of the reporting threshold. The EPA-developed emission factor for acrolein is 0.00447 lbs per million gallons of flow; the reporting threshold for acrolein in Chapter 137 is 10 lbs/year. Therefore, facilities with flows greater than an average daily flow of 6.13 MGD are subject to reporting, unless they have site specific data indicating that they are still below the 10 lb/yr threshold.

Data collected from POTWs and about 400 other facilities is compiled into a state emission inventory. Maine's inventory is submitted to the EPA and is included in the national emissions inventory. These inventories are used by the state and federal agencies and regional organizations to make air policy decisions, to track progress toward meeting air quality standards, and to provide inputs for human health risk assessments studies. In Maine, the data is used for ozone season planning in southern Maine, to model local air quality conditions, and by the Maine Air Toxics Initiative. The Maine Air Toxics Initiative is a stakeholder group formed to prioritize what pollutants and what source categories cause the most risk based on the volume of the pollutants and their toxicity.

The emissions reports are due on July 1, 2006. To assist in this process, the Air Toxics and Emissions Inventory Section will access the flow information facilities submit on their discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and apply EPA-developed emission factors to calculate the emissions. A report will then be generated and sent to the facilities to certify.

The DEP will have a presentation on this topic during the DEP Updates portion of the MWWCA spring conference on April 7th. In addition, the DEP has created a fact sheet on this topic which can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/air/emissions/haps.htm>.

For more information or to get a copy of our fact sheet on this topic, contact the DEP's Lisa Higgins at (207)-287-7023 or Lisa.Higgins@Maine.gov.