

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Public Notice

Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval to
Continental Tire North America, Inc. in Mt. Vernon

Continental Tire North America, Inc. has applied for a construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to expand its tire manufacturing plant located at 11525 North Illinois Highway 142 in Mount Vernon. The project includes new rubber mixers, increased capacity of existing mixers, ten new tire curing presses, and other new and modified equipment changes for increased production. In conjunction with the expansion, Continental has also proposed changes to the rubber formulation to include organo-silane coupling agents for the purpose of enhancing the properties of the rubber, such as reducing rolling resistance and improving vehicle fuel economy. This change to the rubber formulation will result in additional volatile organic material (VOM) emissions during the processing and curing of the rubber at the plant. The project is considered a major modification to the facility for emissions of VOM under the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) rules, 40 CFR 52.21, with a potential increase in VOM emissions of 578 tons per year.

Based on its review of Continental's application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that this project is entitled to a construction permit. **The Illinois EPA is accepting comments prior to making a final decision on the application for this project. Comments must be postmarked by midnight May 15, 2006.** If sufficient interest is expressed in this matter, a hearing may be held. Comments, questions and requests for information, should be directed to Brad Frost, Bureau of Air, Illinois EPA, P. O. Box 19506, Springfield, IL 62794-9506, phone 217/782-2113, TDD 217/782-9143.

Persons wanting more information may view the draft permit and project summary at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/ilonline.htm (please look under All Permit Records, PSD, New). These documents and the application may also be viewed at the Illinois EPA's offices at 2009 Mall Street in Collinsville, 618/346-5120 and 1340 N. Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you). Copies of the documents will be made available upon request.

Under the PSD rules, Continental must use Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to control the VOM emissions from the new and modified mixers and tire curing presses. The Illinois EPA has found that BACT will be provided by the work practices for this equipment, which limit the concentration of VOM emissions.

VOM acts as a precursor to ozone formation. Continental was required to perform a screening analysis to verify that the expansion project would not cause a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. The screening analysis indicated that the expansion project would add 0.015 parts per million to background ambient levels of ozone. The measured background concentration of ozone is 0.099 ppm. The screening

level added to the background level would be below the NAAQS for ozone of 0.120 ppm. The air quality analysis prepared pursuant to the PSD rules for this project indicates that it will not cause a violation of the ambient air quality standard for ozone.