

PROJECT SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is proposing to issue six (6) revised lifetime general operating permits for concrete batch plants. The purpose of a general permit is to cover a large number of small facilities which have similar operations. The Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA) requested the Illinois EPA to develop revised general permits for concrete batch plants. The IRMCA believes that there are several hundred concrete batch plants that may qualify for the proposed permits.

The proposed general permits would establish limits on a concrete batch plant's operations and emissions. These types of concrete batch plants generally have emissions that are not at the levels at which they would be classified as major sources, so that an operating permit does not have to be obtained under the Clean Air Act Permit Program. The proposed limits would be accompanied by recordkeeping and reporting requirements to assure that each concrete batch plant is operated in compliance with the emission standards established by the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

Once the revised general permits are issued, eligible sources will be able to request coverage by one of the permits. The revised lifetime general permits eliminate the need for applying for construction permits and revised operating permits for specified equipment or operational changes, which may be currently required for some of these concrete batch plants. A lifetime state operating permit has no expiration date and normally does not require public notice. The Illinois EPA will maintain a listing of sources that have received these general permits and the listing will be available upon request.

II. EMISSION UNITS AND OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS

A concrete batch plant's operations include receipt and storage of cement, cement supplements, flyash, and/or aggregate, transfer, weighing and batching of the materials, and loading of the materials into mixers and/or transit trucks. These types of equipment and operations must be within the criteria and limitations identified in the lifetime general operating permits in order for the applicant to apply for a permit. In addition, the permits do not allow for the operation of other facilities, such as aggregate processing plants and asphalt mix plants at the concrete batch plant site.

The revised general permits will allow the construction and operation of additional emission units at an existing concrete batch plant such that the construction and/or operation of the additional units will not cause an exceedance of any of the criteria or limitations identified in the general permits.

III. EMISSIONS

The principal air contaminant emitted from a concrete batch plant is particulate matter (PM), generated by the handling, storage and transfer of the cement, cement supplements, flyash, and/or aggregate, as well as that emitted from roads. Emissions from the material handling, storage and transfer operations may be controlled by using enclosed equipment and structures, as well as particulate matter collection and filtering devices that will reduce emissions of particulate matter. Fugitive dust

is also controlled by good housekeeping practices or by the application of water or chemical dust suppressants as required keeping emissions to a minimum.

The proposed permits limit the annual emissions of particulate matter from the concrete batch plants to less than 25 tons per year to up to less than 80 tons per year depending on the type of concrete batch plant and the associated pollution control equipment and annual concrete production. These types of concrete batch plants are not subject to the requirements to obtain an operating permit through the Illinois EPA's Clean Air Act Permit Program because the potential emissions are below major source thresholds.

IV. APPLICABLE EMISSION STANDARDS

All emission sources in Illinois must comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board emission standards. The Illinois Pollution Control Board's emission standards represent the basic requirements for sources in Illinois. The Illinois Pollution Control Board has standards for sources of regulated pollutants typically emitted by concrete batch plants that are addressed in the general permits. The USEPA does not have standards directly applicable to concrete batch plants.

V. PROPOSED PERMITS

The conditions of the proposed permits contain limitations and requirements to assure that a concrete batch plant will be operated in compliance with the applicable pollution control requirements. The conditions include inspection practices, recordkeeping and reporting requirements that the Permittee must perform on an ongoing basis to demonstrate that the concrete batch plant is operating within the limitations set by the permit and is properly controlling emissions. The permits also set limitations on the amount of concrete processed by a concrete batch plant.

VI. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

It is the Illinois EPA's preliminary determination that the concrete batch plants meet all applicable state and federal air pollution control requirements, subject to the conditions proposed in the draft permits. The Illinois EPA is therefore proposing to issue these lifetime general operating permits for these types of operations.

Comments are requested on the proposed conditions on these six (6) draft permits. If substantial public interest is shown in this matter, the Illinois EPA will consider holding a public hearing in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 164.