

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Air, Permit Section
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Project Summary for an Application from
Concrete Specialties Company for a
Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP) for
1375 Gifford Road
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Site Identification No.: 031438ABD
Application No.: 03120027

Illinois EPA Contacts

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I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete Specialties Company has applied for a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP) for its concrete products manufacturing plant at 1375 Gifford Road in Elgin. This plant requires an air pollution control operating permit because it is a source of emissions. The Illinois EPA has prepared a draft of the permit that it would propose to issue for the plant. However, before issuing the permit, the Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period to receive comments on this proposed action and the terms and conditions of the draft permit that it would propose to issue.

II. SOURCE DESCRIPTION

Concrete Specialties Company operates a facility that produces concrete manholes and pipes used in construction of water mains and sewer systems. Manholes and pipes are produced using both wet and dry cast processes. Concrete molds are used to produce the concrete products. The facility uses mold release compounds that are blends of water, surfactants and hydrocarbons. The compound is used to prevent adherence of concrete to parts of the mold during curing/drying. Volatile organic material (VOM) emissions result from evaporation of available hydrocarbons contained in the compound.

The following is a general description of concrete batching. Concrete is composed essentially of water, cement, sand (fine aggregate) and coarse aggregate. Coarse aggregate may consist of gravel, crushed stone or iron blast furnace slag. Some specialty aggregate products could be either heavyweight aggregate (of barite, magnetite, limonite, ilmenite, iron or steel) or lightweight aggregate (with sintered clay, shale, slate, diatomaceous shale, perlite, vermiculite, slag pumice, cinders, or sintered fly ash). Supplementary cementitious materials, also called mineral admixtures or pozzolan minerals may be added to make the concrete mixtures more economical, reduce permeability, increase strength, or influence other concrete properties. Typical examples are natural pozzolans, fly ash, ground granulated blast-furnace slag, and silica fume, which can be used individually with Portland or blended cement or in different combinations. Chemical admixtures are usually liquid ingredients that are added to concrete to entrain air, reduce the water required to reach a required slump, retard or accelerate the setting rate, to make the concrete more flowable or other more specialized functions.

Approximately 75 percent of the U.S. concrete manufactured is produced at plants that store, convey, measure and discharge these constituents into trucks for transport to a job site. At most of these plants, sand aggregate, cement and water are all gravity fed from the weight hopper into the mixer trucks. The concrete is mixed on the way to the site where the concrete is to be poured. At some of these plants, the concrete may also be manufactured in a central mix drum and transferred to a transport truck. Most of the remaining concrete manufactured are products cast in a factory setting. Precast products range from concrete bricks and paving stones to bridge girders, structural components, and panels for cladding. Concrete masonry, another type of manufactured concrete may be best known for its conventional 8 x 8 x 16-inch block.

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Federally Enforceable State Operating Permits (FESOPs) are federally enforceable, that is, the terms and conditions of the permits can be enforced by USEPA under

federal law, as well as by Illinois government and the public under state law. These permits can establish federally enforceable limitations on the operation and emissions of a source that restrict the potential emissions of the source.

The source has applied for a FESOP because the actual emissions of the plant are below the levels at which the plant would be considered a major source under Title V of the federal Clean Air Act. However, in the absence of federally enforceable limitations, the plant's potential emissions would be such that the plant would be considered a major source. The permit acts to restrict the plant potential emissions so that it need not be considered a major source. As a result, the source does not need not obtain a Clean Air Act Permit Program (CAAPP) permit for the plant, as would otherwise be required.

The FESOP limits the operation and annual emissions of the plant to below the major-source-thresholds of 100 tons for VOM, 10 tons for an individual HAP and 25 tons for combined HAPs.

IV. APPLICABLE EMISSION STANDARDS

All emission units in Illinois must comply with state emission standards adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. These emission standards represent the basic requirements for sources in Illinois. The application shows that the plant is in compliance with applicable state (AND FEDERAL) emission standards.

V. CONTENTS OF THE PERMIT

This permit that the Illinois EPA is proposing to issue will identify the specific emission standards that apply to the emission units at the plant. The conditions of this permit are intended to ensure that the source continues to comply with applicable emission standards.

The permit would also contain limitations and requirements to assure that this plant is operated as a non-major source. The permit would limit the operation and annual emissions of the plant to below the major-source-thresholds of 100 tons for VOM, 10 tons for an individual HAP and 25 tons for combined HAPs. (Annual emissions of other pollutants from the plant are well below the 100 ton major source threshold.)

The permit conditions would also continue to require appropriate compliance procedures, including inspection practices as well as recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The source must carry out these procedures on an on-going basis to demonstrate that the plant is being operated within the limitations set by the permit and the plant's emissions are being properly controlled.

VI. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

It is the Illinois EPA's preliminary determination that the source has met the requirements for issuance of its permit. The Illinois EPA is therefore proposing to issue the permit.

Comments are requested on this proposed action by the Illinois EPA and the proposed conditions on the draft permit. If substantial public interest is shown in this

matter, the Illinois EPA will consider holding a public hearing in accordance with 35 IAC Part 166.

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