

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Air, Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19506
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9506

Project Summary for a
Construction Permit Application From
Silgan Containers Manufacturing Corporation for
New Can End Lines and Replacement Lubricators in
Hoopeston, Illinois

Site Identification No.: 183045AAA
Application No.: 11100037

Illinois EPA Contacts

Permit Analyst: Kevin Hecht
Community Relations Coordinator: Brad Frost

Important Dates

Application Received: October 20, 2011
Comment Period Begins: February 1, 2012
Comment Period Closes: March 2, 2012

I. Introduction

Silgan Containers Manufacturing Corporation (Silgan) has applied for a construction permit for three new can end lines and five replacement sheet lubricators for existing can end lines at its existing plant in Hoopeston, Illinois. This project would increase the capacity of the plant.

II. Project Description

At its Hoopeston plant, Silgan manufactures the ends for steel food cans, including “easy open lids.”¹ The process of making can ends begins with feeding sheets of pre-coated metal into end presses, where the individual metal can ends (lids) are formed. The ends are then fed to end liners, where the perimeter of each lid is filled with an end sealing compound, which eventually forms the gasket between the can body and the lid. The end liners are kept clean by the spray application of a mist, which prevents the end compound from sticking to the nozzles of the end liners. For certain presses, the sheets of metal, which are formed into lids, are lubricated by sheet lubricators. These operations are sources of emissions of volatile organic material (VOM) due to the solvent that is contained in the end compounds, the cleaning spray and the lubricant.

The proposed project would involve installation of three new can end lines and the replacement of existing sheet lubricators on five existing can end lines with new sheet lubricators.

III. Emissions

In its application, Silgan has estimated the potential increase in VOM emissions from this project to be about 30.7 tons per year. Accordingly, the VOM emissions of the proposed project would not be significant under the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21, and it would not be considered a major project under PSD.

However, to continue to have flexibility in the operation of the plant, Silgan has requested that the total VOM emissions of the plant, combined emissions allowed for the existing and new equipment, continue to be limited to no more than 249 tons per year. As such, the project would not make the plant a major source under the PSD rules, as its permitted emissions of VOM would be limited to less than 250 tons/year. The actual VOM emissions of the plant would be less than its permitted emissions as equipment operates at less than capacity and various raw materials routinely contain less VOM than allowed.²

¹ The finished food cans are manufactured at other plants, where the can ends from Silgan’s Hoopeston plant are placed on the body of the can.

² In its Annual Emission Reports for 2009 and 2010, Silgan reported actual VOM emissions of 129.2 and 115.1 tons/year, respectively.

IV. Applicable Emission Standards

All emission sources in Illinois must comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board's emission standards. The Board's emission standards represent the basic requirements for sources in Illinois. The Board has standards for emission of VOM, as well as other pollutants. The metal can ends manufacturing lines at this plant readily comply with all applicable Board standards.

V. Draft Permit

The conditions of the permit would contain limits on operation and emissions and other requirements to ensure that the project would not be a major project for emissions of VOM. For this purpose, the permit would set limits on the amount of VOM used and emitted by all emission units at the Hoopston Plant, continuing to limit VOM emissions to no more than 249 tons/year. (See Condition 1.1.5 of the draft permit.)

The permit conditions would also establish appropriate compliance procedures, including testing and recordkeeping requirements. The Permittee must carry out these procedures on an on-going basis to demonstrate that the facility is operating within the limitations set by the permit and is properly controlling emissions.

VI. Request for Comments

It is the Illinois EPA's preliminary determination that the application for permit meets all applicable state and federal air pollution control requirements, subject to the conditions proposed in the draft permit. The Illinois EPA is therefore proposing to issue a construction permit for the proposed project.

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 164.

KTH:kth