



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEB 05 2008

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
AR-18J

Gerald Avery, Manager
Field Operations Section
Air Quality Division
Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30260
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Avery:

Our respective staffs have been working together to streamline the procedures we use to initiate the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 45-day proposed Part 70 operating permit reviews. EPA fully approved Michigan's Part 70 Operating Permit Program, known also as the Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) Program, in 2001 (66 Federal Register 62949).

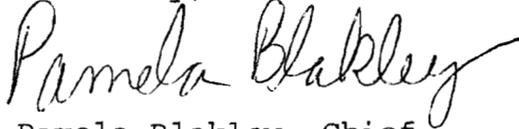
Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations 70.7(a)(1)(v) and 70.8(c), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) must provide EPA the opportunity for a 45-day proposed permit review period before MDEQ can finalize a Part 70 permit, or ROP. Prior to the date of this letter, MDEQ would contact EPA via e-mail that a proposed permit and its supporting documentation were available on MDEQ's website. EPA would then officially start the proposed permit's 45-day review clock by responding in kind via e-mail.

Due to the nearly instant availability of electronic documents, MDEQ and EPA agree that it is no longer necessary for EPA to respond to each of MDEQ's proposed permit e-mail notifications in order to officially start each proposed permit's 45-day clock. Therefore, as of the date of this letter, EPA's 45-day proposed permit review period begins on the date MDEQ notifies EPA via e-mail that MDEQ has issued a proposed permit for EPA review, provided that the proposed permit and all required supporting documentation are also electronically available at the time of the e-mail notification. If EPA cannot access the documents, EPA will notify MDEQ, and MDEQ will adjust the 45-day review clock in order to provide the full review period.

EPA has access to MDEQ's electronic permit files on MDEQ's ROP recent actions, source lists, permit documents, and related information webpage, which is currently located at http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/downloads/rop/pub_ntce/pub_ntce.shtml. The support documentation includes the permit application, draft permit, proposed permit, staff report, and staff report addendum (which includes responses to any relevant comments received during the 30-day public comment period).

I hope these changes to our 45-day proposed permit review procedures alleviate some of the permit tracking burdens for both MDEQ and EPA. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me at (312) 886-4447, or you can contact Beth Valenziano at (312) 886-2703.

Sincerely,



Pamela Blakley, Chief
Air Permits Section
Air Programs Branch

cc: William Presson, MDEQ Permits Section
Heidi Hollenbach, MDEQ Grand Rapids District
Joanne Foy, MDEQ Lansing District