

BENEFITS

The new Air Quality PTI application review process will result in environmentally sound, operationally flexible permits with achievable terms and conditions. Permit decisions will be made within six months, and most permits will be issued much sooner. Process requirements will be identified clearly prior to submission.

The process will:

- ✓ Protect air quality by maintaining scientific reviews and complying with regulations.
- ✓ Result in an average time required for review of air permit applications of less than six calendar months.
- ✓ Eliminate repetitive work and waiting in the permitting process by ensuring that requirements, issues, and goals are identified and clearly communicated prior to application submission and/or initiating engineering review.
- ✓ Provide permit applicants with a clear, efficient, written process for resolving outstanding, permit-related issues.
- ✓ Allow the agency to make informed final permit decisions in a timely manner.
- ✓ Allow applicants to submit permit applications earlier in their design/manufacturing schedule. This will reduce the need for design changes and inaccurate engineering guesses which often cause lengthy delays in the permit review process.

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Michigan's Application Review process

Protecting Michigan's Environment, Ensuring Michigan's Future



NEW PERMIT PROCESS

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has re-engineered its Air Quality Division (AQD) Permit to Install (PTI) application review process. The review process has been redesigned to address the needs of the modern, fast-paced economy, while preserving and improving environmental protection.

PTI applicants and the general public will be the primary benefactors of the re-engineered permitting process. The re-engineered process will provide:

- ✓ A review process that is efficient, concise, and transparent.
- ✓ Maximum environmental protection and manufacturing flexibility.
- ✓ More opportunities for face-to-face meetings so requirements are clearly communicated at the start and throughout the permitting process.
- ✓ Compliance with state and federal requirements.
- ✓ Permit issuance in six months or less.
- ✓ Achievable, demonstrable, and value-added permit conditions.
- ✓ Opportunities for increased and enhanced public involvement.

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PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 The applicant contacts the AQD to initiate the process. An AQD permit engineer is assigned and a Permit Scoping Meeting (PSM) is scheduled. The permit engineer sends specially tailored permitting requirements to the applicant.
- 2 The applicant meets with the AQD team assembled by the permit engineer for 1 to 3 days in the PSM. Issues are identified and scheduled for resolution. Draft permit conditions are provided to the applicant. If there are no outstanding issues, the permit may be issued at the PSM. If there are outstanding issues, the applicant addresses them and submits a permit application within 14 days of the PSM.
- 3 Two formal "Look-See" meeting opportunities are provided after the PSM. The applicant's technical and management team and AQD permit team members participate in these meetings. Issues are identified and scheduled for resolution. If outstanding issues cannot be quickly resolved after the first Look-See meeting, the application must either be withdrawn or it will be denied. If there are issues that are resolvable, the applicant responds with additional information. The AQD permit engineer then proposes final permit conditions. A second Look-See meeting opportunity is provided to resolve any remaining issues. If the AQD and applicant cannot resolve outstanding issues at this point, the most up-to-date version of permit conditions will be issued or published for comment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For more information:
www.deq.state.mi.us/aps
517-373-7023

When will the new process be implemented?

The AQD will review permit applications received after September 6, 2004, using the new process.

What if I submit my application without scheduling a Permit Scoping Meeting?

An AQD Permit Engineer will contact you and schedule a meeting or conference call shortly after the application is received. This will typically add time to the permit review process.

What will the new process require of me?

The new process is designed to move quickly. Complete applications with accurate design data are imperative. Applicants must be prepared to answer questions and resolve any other outstanding issues quickly.

Will training be provided?

Training will be provided to those that request it and these changes will be incorporated into the MDEQ's PTI workshops. Go to www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops to register for this and other DEQ workshops.

How can meaningful public involvement be accomplished within this new timeframe?

The allotted time for public participation has not changed. The Permit Scoping Meeting also provides a new opportunity to identify projects that might benefit from enhanced public outreach.