



Emergency Generators / Engine Sets

Businesses that install **emergency generators/engine sets that are rated at or above 500 brake horsepower (approx. 373 kilowatts)** are required to go through the Notice of Construction permit process and register annually with Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air).

Notice of Construction (NOC) & Fees

Spokane Clean Air Regulation I, Article V, requires that a NOC permit application be approved prior to the construction, installation, establishment, replacement or modification of air contaminant sources, emissions units or air pollution control equipment in Spokane County. This includes equipment associated with stationary or portable devices or any part of such a device that emits or has the potential to emit any air contaminant, including emergency generator sets rated at or above 500 brake horsepower.

There is a NOC permit fee, based on emissions and type of equipment. For emergency generator sets rated at or above 500 brake horsepower, the NOC permit fee would be \$3,715 - \$4,215 (depending on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirement).

Annual Registration & Fees

Sources of air contaminants must register annually with Spokane Clean Air, including emergency generator sets rated at or above 500 brake horsepower. As a part of the registration program, businesses are required to report the annual hours of generator operation and/or fuel usage.

There is a fee for annual registration, based on source

type and emissions. For emergency generator sets rated at or above 500 brake horsepower, the annual registration fee is \$250 - \$300.

The annual registration program enables Spokane Clean Air to maintain an inventory of air contaminants. Information is also used to evaluate air pollution control strategies to attain and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

On-site Inspections

Regular inspections of registered sources are conducted to verify compliance with air pollution regulations. When inspecting emergency generator sets, a review of records will be conducted, including hours of operation and fuel usage.



If you have already installed an emergency generator set, or are planning to in the future, please contact Spokane Clean Air. Our staff is available to assist you with the permit and registration process. Call (509) 477-4727.

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Federal Rules

There are new state and federal air quality standards affecting emergency generator set engines.

New National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂): The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has promulgated a new 1-hour standard for NO₂. The standard is 100 parts per billion (equivalent to 189 ug/m³).

Starting January 1, 2011, EPA's new Tier IV standards for internal combustion engines go into effect. Engines powering stationary emergency generator sets must be certified to the highest Tier limits that do not require exhaust after treatment devices.

<i>Tier IV Standard</i> Emergency Engines <56 bkW (<75 bhp)
<i>Tier III Standard</i> Emergency Engines between 56-560 bkW (75-750 bhp)
<i>Tier II Standard</i> Emergency Engines >560 bkW (750 bhp) and less than 10 liters per cylinder will need to be certified

EPA considers emergency generator sets to operate only during the loss of a normal power source such as the utility or the grid. The anticipated operating scenario would be as follows:

1. Normal source power is lost.
2. User starts the emergency generator set to supply power to the electrical loads.
3. Normal source power returns.
4. User shuts down the emergency generator set and supplies the electrical loads from the normal source.

There are no restrictions on the number of hours that an emergency installation may run under true emergency conditions. EPA regulation only allows operators to run their emergency generators for 100 hours per year for maintenance and exercise purposes.

State Rules

The 2009 revisions to Washington State's Air Toxic rule (Chapter 173-460 WAC) list Diesel Engine Exhaust Particulate (DEEP) as a regulated toxic air pollutant. The rule establishes a Small Quantity Emission Rate of 0.639 pounds per year for new sources that emit DEEP. For new sources that have the potential to emit more than 0.639 pounds per year of DEEP, air dispersion modeling and/or health impact analysis must be performed to ensure the new source will meet the Chapter 173-460 WAC standards. Occasionally, limits on hours of operation or increased stack height may be sufficient for the source comply with the standards.

About Us

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) is the local agency that administers state, federal and local laws and regulations for managing air quality in the cities, towns and unincorporated areas in Spokane County. Spokane Clean Air staff inspect air pollution sources, issue permits, monitor ambient air quality and educate the public about air quality.

Spokane Clean Air was formed under the 1967 Clean Air Act of Washington (Chapter 70.94 RCW). That Act required larger counties within the State of Washington to activate local air pollution control authorities. There are seven local air agencies in the state, plus the state Air Quality Program within the Department of Ecology.

For more information, call (509) 477-4727 or visit www.spokanecleanair.org.



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