

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

SPOKANE COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

PROGRAM An Informative Newsletter Helping Businesses Reduce Air Pollution in Spokane County

The Importance of Annual Reporting to SCAPCA

All air contaminant sources regulated by SCAPCA report emissions-related information annually. Most registered sources submit annual registration forms, providing material usage and operational data.

From this information, SCAPCA estimates individual facility emissions. Larger, registered sources and air operating permit sources (i.e., sources with higher potential emissions) must report emissions and emissions-related information on Washington Emissions Data System (WEDS) forms. Generally, the larger sources estimate their own emissions. After SCAPCA review, copies of WEDS forms are forwarded to the Washington Department of Ecology to be entered into a national emissions database, as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What does SCAPCA do with all of this information? The reported information is used both to look at individual sources and to examine emissions countywide. On an individual source basis, the information is used to verify that sources are complying with applicable emission limits and standards.

To make countywide emissions information easier to use, source emissions are entered into SCAPCA's database. This allows SCAPCA to produce annual summaries of emissions from regulated businesses in many useful formats. For instance, total emissions by pollutant can be determined, and those totals can then be broken down into source categories. By examining this data, SCAPCA can evaluate the effectiveness of its programs, identify emissions contributing to local air pollution which need further attention, and study emission trends. These evaluations enable SCAPCA to develop comprehensive plans aimed at preventing, minimizing and controlling air pollution.

SCAPCA maintains an inventory of the following pollutants from regulated sources: fine particles, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, hazardous/toxic air pollutants. ■

2005 Summary of Activities

SCAPCA's compliance staff consists of four Air Quality Specialists; one is primarily focused on asbestos, and the other three are responsible for conducting regular facility inspections, enforcing air pollution regulations, responding to citizen complaints, and conducting routine surveillance.

The agency also employs three engineers who are responsible for reviewing and approving facility permit applications, providing information on regulations, and reviewing environmental documents.

Here is a summary of key activities in 2005:

- ✓ Facility Inspections 256
- ✓ Existing facilities registered 648
- ✓ New facilities registered 14
- ✓ New source reviews—Notice of Construction (NOC) approved 67
- ✓ Temporary source reviews—Notice of Intent (NOI) approved 25

Jeff Corkill Joins SCAPCA Board

Eastern Washington University Chemistry Professor Jeff Corkill has been appointed to serve on the SCAPCA Board of Directors as the "City of Spokane" representative. The position was previously filled by former City Councilman Mike Brewer, who retired from the SCAPCA Board after serving several years.

Corkill is very familiar with SCAPCA, having served on its Advisory Council for 14 years.

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Facility Permitting: *The Role of SCAPCA & the Public in the SEPA Process*

By Joe Southwell, Air Quality Engineer

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is Washington's basic environmental charter. Prior to its adoption, the public voiced concerns that government decisions didn't reflect environmental considerations. SEPA gave agencies the tools to both consider, and mitigate for, environmental impacts of proposals. SEPA provides for involvement of the public, tribes, and interested agencies in most review processes prior to a final decision and ensures environmental values are considered during decision-making by state and local agencies.

The environmental review process in SEPA is designed to work with other regulations to provide a comprehensive review of a proposal. While most regulations focus on a specific environmental aspect of a proposal (e.g., air, water, land) SEPA requires identification and evaluation of probable impacts for all elements of the environment.

Combining the review processes of SEPA with other more specific environmental mandates reduces duplication and delay by combining study needs, combining comment periods and public notices, and allowing agencies, applicants, and the public to consider all aspects of a proposal at the same time. SEPA also gives agencies the authority to condition or deny a proposal based on the agency's adopted SEPA policies and environmental impacts identified in a SEPA document, such as an environmental checklist or environmental impact statement.

Summary of the SEPA Process

The environmental review process involves a number of steps that are briefly described below.

1. *Preapplication conference (optional)*

Although not included in the SEPA rules, several agencies offer a process for the applicant to discuss a proposal with staff prior to submitting a permit application

or environmental checklist. The applicant and agency can discuss existing regulations that would affect the proposal, the steps and possible timeline for project review, and other information that may help the applicant submit a complete application.

2. *SEPA applicability determination.*

Determine whether environmental review is required for the proposal by (1) defining the entire proposal, (2) identifying any agency actions (e.g., issuing of licenses, permits, etc.), and (3) deciding if the proposal fits one of the categorical exemptions. If the project does not involve an agency action (e.g., issuing a permit), or there is an action but the project is exempt, environmental review is not required.

3. *Lead agency determination.* If environmental review is required, the "lead agency" is identified. This is the agency responsible for the environmental analysis and procedural steps under SEPA. Usually the agency that receives the first

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Regulation & Program Update

Notice of Proposed Revisions to SCAPCA's Annual Registration Fees for Air Contaminant Sources

Background — SCAPCA's fee schedule for registered sources has remained unchanged for nearly a decade. SCAPCA staff proposes amending the annual fees paid by registered facilities in three phases over the next five years, to achieve a full cost-recovery registration program. An informational mailer was sent in early May to all current registered sources.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

- ◆ The more pollutants a facility emits, the higher its fees;
- ◆ Facilities on the current 2-step facility fee scale and gasoline stations would be reassigned to a 6-step facility fee scale and fees would increase with each step;
- ◆ Remaining fee categories (e.g., emission point fee, emissions fee, etc.) would be increased;
- ◆ Synthetic Minor (SM) sources would pay a flat SM fee and a Washington Emission Data System (WEDS) fee of \$50 per hour to more accurately recover the costs associated with processing and reviewing WEDS; and

- ◆ The fee increase would phase-in over five years with the largest increase in year 1; followed by a 10% increase in years 3 and 5.

More Information / Questions?—A 40-page staff report is available online at www.scapca.org. The report can be provided upon request, by contacting SCAPCA: 477-4727 or scapca@scapca.org. In addition, staff calculated approximate annual registration fees that would have been assessed to each source in fiscal year 2004 or 2005 under the proposed fee structure. If you'd like estimates for your facility, contact: Joe Southwell, 477-4727 ext.#103, jrsouthwell@scapca.org; or April Westby, 477-4727, ext. #105, alwestby@scapca.org. ■

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application for a proposal is responsible for determining who is lead agency and notifying them of the proposal.

4. Proposal evaluation. The lead agency must review the environmental checklist and other information available on the proposal and evaluate the proposal's likely environmental impacts. The lead agency and applicant may work together to reduce the probable impacts, either by revising the proposal or identifying mitigation measures that will be included as permit conditions.

5. Decision-making. The agency decision-maker must consider the environmental information, along with technical and economic information, when deciding whether to approve a proposal. Decision-makers may use information in the SEPA document and the agency's adopted SEPA policies to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposal.

6. Significance assessment and determination. After evaluating the proposal and identifying mitigation measures, the lead agency must determine whether a proposal would still have any likely significant adverse environmental impacts. The lead agency will issue a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS), which may include mitigation conditions, or if the proposal is determined to have a likely significant impact, a determination of significance/scoping notice (DS/Scoping) is issued and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process is begun. The EIS will analyze alternatives and possible mitigation measures to reduce the environmental impacts.

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Public Role

Notice to the public is provided by publishing the lead agency's determination (e.g., DNS or DS/Scoping) in a newspaper of general circulation. The notices typically run for one day. The notice will request comments on the proposal and give a deadline for when comments must be received. The lead agency will review the public comment. If significant public interest is indicated, a public hearing may be held. The intent of the public comment period and hearing is to provide opportunity for additional information relating to the proposal or to identify applicable issues/rules/information overlooked in the agency determination.

Information received during the public comment period and/or public hearing is reviewed, and may be incorporated in a final decision.

SCAPCA's Role

SCAPCA is one of many agencies that reviews SEPA documents. Typically, SCAPCA will review the SEPA to determine if air quality impacts are adequately addressed. If SCAPCA is the lead agency, the environmental document is circulated to other agencies for comment. SCAPCA will review comments received, and if needed, require the proponent to address other agencies' concerns before making a decision. If SCAPCA is not the lead agency, a comment letter is sent to the lead agency, identifying air quality concerns. If the proposal doesn't require a SCAPCA permit, then the comment letter will address general air pollution concerns such as dust control, open burning, or nuisance odors. If the proposal may require a SCAPCA permit, then a letter identifying the specific permit issues and permit requirements, is sent to the lead agency and permit application information (forms and fact sheets) is sent to the proponent. Generally, the lead agency won't make a final decision unless the proponent has addressed the air pollution issues identified by SCAPCA. For more information, call Joe Southwell at 477-4727, ext. # 103. ■

Ask SCAPCA

Q: Temporary & Portable Sources —What's the Difference?

A: The difference is the type of approval process you'll need to go through during permitting.

Temporary stationary sources operate at a specific site for a limited period of time (by definition, not more than 364 days). A temporary stationary source may be required to obtain a Notice of Construction (NOC) approval prior to operating within Spokane County, determined on a case by case basis, depending on source type, quantity of emissions and applicable emission standards.

Portable sources are a type of temporary stationary source that are expected to operate temporarily at multiple sites or on a seasonal basis within Spokane County. Examples of temporary portable sources include: rock crushers, asphalt plants, and concrete batch plants. Portable sources must obtain NOC approval prior to operating for the first time anywhere within the County. Thereafter, these sources are required to obtain only Notice of Intent to Install and Operate a Temporary Source (NOI) approval prior to subsequent operation at sites within the County. An Info Sheet with details on the NOC and the NOI process for Portable and Stationary Sources is available online at www.scapca.org/compliance_resources.asp or call 477-4727. ■



A rock crusher, pictured above, is considered a portable stationary air contaminant source.

Rowe: “Air Monitoring Operator of the Year”

The 2005 “Air Monitoring Operator of the Year” award was bestowed upon Mark Rowe, Air Quality Technician for SCAPCA.

The award, presented by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), is presented to one recipient each year who “stood above the rest” by taking on extra tasks in addition to their usual duties.

“Last year, Rowe accepted the responsibility of setting up and operating air monitoring instruments

throughout Spokane with a minimum of funds, time and adverse weather conditions,” said Grant Pfeifer of Ecology. “Air monitoring data collected in the United States is recognized as the best in the world...made possible by the dedication of individuals whose job it is to collect data, day after day,” added Pfeifer.

Rowe’s background in meteorology (he earned his Master’s Degree in Micrometeorology), comes in handy—he is responsible for daily air quality forecasting, in addition to his monitoring duties.

Spokane’s Air Quality forecasts are sent to a national website sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.airnow.gov.

Rowe has worked at SCAPCA since 1997. Prior to joining SCAPCA, he worked at two local air agencies in Richland and Yakima. ■



Air monitoring technician Mark Rowe, collects data from a PM_{2.5} monitor.

FOR SALE? Air Pollution Control Equipment

Are you hanging on to a paint booth that you no longer use?

Do you have an old baghouse that you replaced months (*or years*) ago still sitting around?

The air pollution control equipment that you no longer use, may be of use to someone else.

As a service to our readers, we’re offering you an opportunity to list your used air pollution control equipment for free, as space is available.

If interested, simply send or email a description of the air pollution control equipment you have for sale, including contact information for potential buyers.

Contact Information:

Email: caalford@scapca.org

Fax: 477-6828

Info: 477-4727, ext. # 104

Measuring Air Quality

Measuring air quality in the Spokane area is done through an extensive network of air monitors. The monitoring is designed to measure the area’s most prevalent air pollutants—carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and ozone.

Data from some of the monitors is transmitted electronically to SCAPCA’s office. Data is reported to the community via the agency’s website www.scapca.org and the Air Quality Info Line: 477-2571.

Here are the current monitoring locations by pollutant:

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Monitoring Sites:

- ✓ Hamilton St. & Sharp Ave.
- ✓ Third Ave. & Washington St.

Particulate (PM) Monitoring Sites:

- ✓ Turnbull Wildlife Refuge
- ✓ Freya St. & Ferry St.

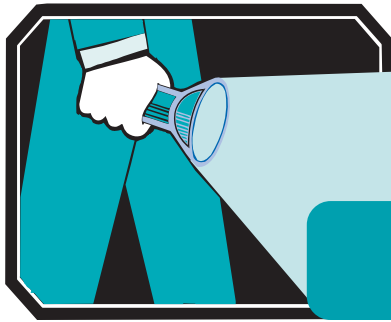
- ✓ Monroe St. & Wellesley Ave.
- ✓ Monroe St. & College Ave.
- ✓ Liberty Lake

Ozone (O₃) Monitoring Sites:

- ✓ Greenbluff area (seasonal)
- ✓ Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Air Toxics Monitoring Sites:

- ✓ Freya St. & Ferry St.



Business Spotlight

TransCanada 2006 Clean Air Award

TransCanada is the recipient of the 2006 Clean Air Award, presented by SCAPCA at a ceremony in January. The Clean Air Award is presented annually to an organization that has consistently demonstrated a commitment to reduce air emissions.

TransCanada received the award for upgrades made to their Compressor Station 6, which has resulted in an impressive reduction of 250 tons of air emissions per year. The Compressor Station, located north of Rosalia in Spokane County, produces the gas horsepower to move natural gas through a pipeline that transmits natural gas from the Canadian border to California.

Three natural gas turbines are operated at the compressor station. Emissions from the turbines result when pipeline-quality (a.k.a., clean) natural gas is burned in the combustion chamber or combustor. Emissions from the combustion process include oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO), with smaller amounts of particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), unburned hydrocarbons (HC), volatile organic compounds

(VOCs) and toxic air pollutants (TAPs).

The oldest turbine at the compressor station was installed in 1969. It is rated at 14,210 hp and does not have any combustion or add-on

The installation of newer equipment, both in 1992 and again in 2002, with dry low NO_x combustion technology, has significantly lowered emissions from this facility. Prior to the addition of the newest turbine, the older of the two tur-

bines operated the most, primarily because it was the more flexible of the two turbines to operate and maintain. Unfortunately, it produced the most air pollution. With the addition of the newer, higher horsepower turbine, the option to operate at variable speeds and loads was realized, and the older, “dirtier” unit was operated less often.

Emissions of NO_x and CO were cut in half starting in calendar year 2002, when the new turbine was put into service, resulting in emission reductions of approximately 150 tons of NO_x and over 100 tons of CO each year.

SCAPCA commends TransCanada for their dedication and commitment to reducing emissions from their compressor station by over 250 tons annually. This results in cleaner air for us all. ■



Pictured left to right: Stan Barry, Jim Wisor, Jim Clawson, and Jeff Gravelle of TransCanada; Ron Edgar of SCAPCA; and Jeff Pollock of TransCanada.

emission controls as there are no applicable federal or state regulatory standards. In 1990, another turbine was installed, rated at 14,100 hp. In 1992 it was retrofitted with SoLoNO_x dry low NO_x combustors to limit NO_x emissions from the combustion process. In 2002, the third turbine was installed, rated at 19,500 hp, with SoLoNO_x dry low NO_x combustion technology, again limiting NO_x formation during combustion.

Air · Quality · Calendar

UPDATE is published quarterly by Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA) as part of its Compliance Assistance Program. Comments, suggestions and story ideas may be directed to Update Editor Lisa Woodard.

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June 15: Deadline to submit written comments to SCAPCA on the proposed registration fee schedule *prior to* initiating the formal rulemaking process, which will include a public comment period and public hearing. (See Regulation & Program Update, page 2). For more information visit www.scapca.org or call 477-4727, ext. # 102

June 27: Deadline to submit written comments to SCAPCA on the proposed asbestos fee changes. For information, visit www.scapca.org or call 477-4727, ext. #106

July 6: Public Hearing on SCAPCA's proposed asbestos fee changes at SCAPCA's July Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., lower level Commissioner's Hearing Room, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave. For more information, call 477-4727.

SCAPCA's Board of Directors conduct their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise publicized. Meeting begin at 9:30 a.m., in the lower level Commissioners Hearing Room, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Avenue. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.scapca.org. For information: 477-4727.

Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority 2006 Board of Directors:

Matthew Pederson, Chair, Small Cities & Towns Representative
Michele Pope, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large
Jeff Corkill, City of Spokane Representative
Phillip Harris, Spokane County Commissioner
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner

This newsletter is available electronically via SCAPCA's website. To add or remove names to **UPDATE** mailing list, call 477-4727, ext. 115.

UPDATE

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