Spring/Summer 2007

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY
UPDATE
An Informative Newsletter Helping Businesses Reduce Air Pollution in Spokane County

A New Name, A New Era: Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

In June, the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority became the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. So, why the name change? After all, it's worked fine for nearly 40 years.

"The new name is more reflective of our agency's mission and programs. The new logo features city and county landmarks and our tagline, "working with you for clean air," promotes the community's role in improving and maintaining clean, healthy air," according to Bill Dameworth, Director.

When the agency began its work in 1969, the primary focus was on controlling the emissions from industrial operations. Over the years, as industry has installed new control technology equipment, emissions from this category have been reduced drastically, to less than 20% of the air pollution in Spokane. Today, all of us, collectively, are the biggest source of pollution, with more than half coming from vehicles.

"The new name should clear up any confusion that the agency is a department of Spokane County, when in reality, it is a separate, governmental entity, serving all of the incorporated cities and towns and the unincorporated areas of Spokane County," added Dameworth.

Spokane Clean Air is one of eight local clean air agencies in Washington state, established under the 1967 Washington State Clean Air Act.

Although SCAPCA was a frequently used acronym, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency plans to use "Spokane Clean Air" as a shortened version of the full name, to avoid the use of an acronym.

In addition to the name change, the agency's logo and website have also been updated. The new logo was inspired by a winning entry in a logo design contest.

The agency is still located in the Spokane Regional Health District building and its phone numbers remain unchanged.

Inside . . .

Spokane Clean Air is governed by a five-member Board of Directors:

City of Spokane: Jeff Corkill, Chair of the Board

City of Spokane Valley: Mike DeVleming, City Councilmember, Vice-Chair of the Board

Small Cities & Towns: Matthew Pederson, Mayor of Airway Heights

Spokane County: Commissioner Bonnie Mager

Member-at-Large: Melissa Ahern

For more information about Spokane Clean Air, contact us at: www.spokanecleanair.org or 477-4727. ■

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

working with you for clean air

Reducing Dust . . .

Construction, site preparation, grading, hauling, road work, landscaping, excavating, demolition, masonry work, grinding, and land clearing . . .

If you perform any of these or related activities, you need to know what the rules are regarding the control of dust pollution.

The Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency receives many citizen complaints about excessive dust emissions. Agency inspectors conduct surveillance throughout the county, and will perform on-the-spot inspections if dust problems are observed. Documented violations may result in formal enforcement action, including civil penalties. The best way to avoid costly violations is to monitor your operations and plan for dust control.

It's a Real Concern

Dust is an air quality concern, especially during the dry summer months. If not controlled, dust can be a health hazard and a public nuisance. When inhaled, fine dust particles travel deep into the lungs, increasing breathing problems, damaging lung tissue, and aggravating existing health problems.

Common Sources

In the Spokane-area, most dust emissions come from paved and unpaved road surfaces, construction and demolition activities, parking lots, storage piles, and handling and transfer of materials. control equipment when handling, transferring, and/or storing dusty materials.

Know the Rules:

- ✔ precautions must be taken to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne
- ✔ depositing particulate matter onto the property of others is prohibited
- ✔ dirt and mud must be removed from equipment and vehicles before movement onto paved public roads
- ✔ dirt and mud tracked onto paved public roadways must be promptly removed

Minimize Dust

Typically, one or more of the following strategies is recommended to minimize dust emissions:

- ✔ use water or chemical dust suppressants
- ✔ minimize activities during periods of high winds
- ✔ use covered chutes, covered containers, or collection and control equipment when handling, transferring, and/or storing dusty materials
- ✔ minimize free fall distances for dusty materials
- ✔ vegetate or mulch dusty areas
- ✔ maintain adequate freeboard and cover loads when transporting dusty materials
- ✔ keep paved surfaces clean to minimize re-entrainment of dust into the air
- ✔ restrict access or limit vehicle speeds on unpaved areas to 15 miles per hour

Using water or a chemical dust suppressant is one way to miminize dust emissions.

Minimize Tracking

- ✔ pave or gravel unpaved traveled surfaces
- ✔ pave or install gravel buffer areas at exits
- ✔ clean vehicle tires and undercarriages before traveling on paved roads (wash stations)
- ✔ promptly clean up material that has been tracked onto paved roadways (wet flush/spray off, street sweep/vacuum)

For additional information on dust control, or to order related guidebooks, please call 477-4727.

Storing Solvent-laden Shop Towels

Many businesses registered with the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency employ laundering services to clean their solvent-laden shop towels. This is recognized as a "Best Management Practice" because the shop towels are reused after laundering, thus reducing the extent and costs of hazardous waste disposal. But, if shop towels are not stored properly prior to pick up, they are a substantial source of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. Here's why:

Solvent-laden shop towels, often used in printing and automotive operations, become a source of emissions when VOCs evaporate off the towels. VOCs are a contributor to ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant. And many solvents contain toxic air pollutants, some of which are probable carcinogens.

It may not seem like storing solvent-laden shop towels in a cloth sack or hamper would create a lot of emissions. The following scenario illustrates the additional VOCs that result from this practice over one year:

Printing operations use shop towels to remove excess ink and press wash from presses during cleaning. A medium-sized print shop uses an average of one gallon of press wash for press cleaning per day. Each gallon of press wash contains 6.8 lbs of VOCs. If these shop towels aren't stored in a closed metal container, all of the VOCs in the press wash, including the VOCs in the towels, are lost to evaporation. If the used towels are placed and stored in a closed metal container, 50% of the VOCs in the press wash are assumed to be retained in the shop towels (and the other 50% of VOCs contained in the press wash are lost to evaporation). Lets do the math: If the print shop operates one shift, five days per week, 52 weeks per year, that equates to 1,768 lbs of VOC emitted to the air if the towels are not kept in closed metal containers. If the towels are properly stored in closed metal containers, only 884 lbs of VOC would be emitted. When you consider how many printing and automotive repair operations there are in Spokane County, improperly stored shop towels collectively add up to many tons of additional VOC emissions yearly. In addition to air quality impacts, improper storage of solvent-laden shop towels may create a fire safety hazard as vapors accumulate in the workplace.

To minimize potential emissions, towels must be stored in closed metal containers until removed from the shop.

If you use a laundry service to re-use your shop towels, make sure you store your VOC containing shop towels in sealed metal containers. We'll all breathe easier and be safer too. ■

Beyond Compliance

Businesses registered with Spokane Clean Air are required to comply with air pollution regulations, which are created to protect air quality. To assist businesses, a variety of materials are available and provided by agency staff during on-site inspections.

Go Beyond Compliance

Once a business has reached compliance, it's time to take a look at actions that can be taken to go beyond compliance requirements. By doing so, a business may benefit from reduced manufacturing costs, improved energy efficiency, reduced or simplified paperwork, and/or reduced emissions.

Below are some examples:

Pollution Prevention – in some cases, implementing "source reduction" and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants allow a business to get below certain emission-reporting thresholds, resulting in reduced registration fees.

Material Substitution – using materials that produce fewer or no hazardous air pollutants or volatile organic compounds, but still result in the same or an improved product, may save a company material costs and/or reduce the administrative burden that comes with compliance.

Manufacturing Method Changes – advancements in manufacturing techniques can often reduce the pollution produced through production process improvements and improved manufacturing efficiency.

Combustion Efficiency Improvements – making equipment operate more efficiently can reduce energy consumption and reduce emissions.

The benefits of going beyond compliance will vary by business and types of changes implemented. Bottom line: going the extra mile may actually save you money and time. ■

Air Monitoring Network Expanding

Monitoring air quality has been a main function of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) since its inception in 1969.

The current air monitoring program consists of five locations, and will soon expand to include three additional sites. The Cities of Airway Heights, Deer Park, Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley will be homes to the new devices.

"The new sites will provide us with important data for outlying areas of the Spokane metropolitan area," said Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services for Spokane Clean Air. According to Edgar, particular emphasis will be placed on evaluating smoke impacts from wood burning in the Deer Park area and smoke from outdoor burning infiltrating Liberty Lake by way of Idaho.

Using telemetry, a technology that allows the remote measurement and reporting of information, data from all the monitoring sites can be accessed from the Spokane Clean Air's website: www.spokanecleanair.org.

Typically, the start-up costs for new monitoring sites are funded by special grants, primarily from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The capital costs for establishing the new sites will be paid for using an extraordinary enforcement fine of about $200,000. Operating costs will come from the general fund.

Air monitoring equipment on a rooftop near Freya Street and Ferry Avenue.

"The new sites should be up and running in the fall, by the start of the heating season," Edgar said. The sites will measure fine particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter. Particles this tiny come mostly from combustion-related activities, such as motor vehicles, wood burning, outdoor burning and industrial operations.

At one point, Spokane Clean Air operated over 20 different air monitoring sites. This number has been drastically reduced because of the capital costs of new technology equipment and staffing requirements.

"We've done plenty of short-term, special projects air sampling, but real expansion of permanent monitoring sites hasn't occurred in the last 20 years," Edgar said. ■

by Stephanie Childs, Intern

Air Quality Permit Fees To Increase

The Board of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) recently approved a plan to raise air quality permit fees—Notice of Construction and Notice of Intent—to reach full cost recovery over a two-year phase-in approach.

At it's June meeting, board members held a public hearing and then approved revisions to Regulation I, Article X, Sections 10.07 & 10.08 related to NOC Permit Fees, NOI Permit Fees, and Miscellaneous Fees. The revisions are effective July 9, 2007 and are available online at www.spokanecleanair.org, or call 477-4727.

The agency's NOC and NOI programs haven't been at full cost recovery, averaging an annual fee-based revenue shortfall of approximately $100,000, due to increasing costs and fees that remained unchanged for up to 15 years.

The agency processes about 75-90 permits each year. Permits are required prior to the installation or modification of equipment/processes that emit or control air contaminants.

Board members will periodically review the fees and adjust as necessary to maintain full cost recovery for the program.

If you have any questions regarding these changes and the permit process, call Spokane Clean Air at 477-4727. ■

2007 *Update* Readership Survey:

We pick your brain and you could win a prize!

Please complete this survey and return by August 1, 2007. Those who return a completed survey by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate donated by a local restaurant.

1. Please indicate what best describes your organization:

- ❑ private commercial/industrial business
- ❑ city/county department
- ❑ state/federal agency
- ❑ environmental interest group
- ❑ non-profit organization
- ❑ business/trade association
- ❑ other: _____

2. Considering past issues, how much of *Update* do you read?

❑ 100% ❑ 50% ❑ <50%

3. Which of the following topics are most valuable to staying in compliance with clean air rules? (check all that apply)

- ❑ New legislation related to air quality
- ❑ Air quality statistics
- ❑ Emerging technologies to reduce pollution
- ❑ Featuring businesses "doing things right"
- ❑ Pollution prevention ideas
- ❑ Small business assistance grants
- ❑ Compliance assistance tips
- ❑ Rules and regulations
- ❑ Other topics: _____

_____

_____

4. Do you route *Update* throughout your organization? ❑ Yes ❑

5. If there is someone else in your organization who could benefit from a personal copy of *Update,* please provide the following:

Name, Title _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

6. How useful is *Update* in keeping you informed about the various requirements for registered facilities?

❑ Useful. If useful, it what way(s) is it useful?

_____

_____

❑ Average. How can it be more useful?

_____

_____

❑ Not Useful. If not useful, why?

_____

_____

7. How can Spokane Clean Air better assist you/your business in complying with clean air requirements?

_____

_____

8. This newsletter is available electronically- Please indicate your preference:

- ❑ continue to receive a hard copy in the mail
- ❑ receive an email when the latest edition is posted on the website, with a link to it.

_____

If you would like to be entered into the prize drawing, please provide your name and phone number:

_____

_____

Thank you for your feedback. We appreciate it!

By August 1, 2007, fax or mail this completed survey to: **(509) 477-6828**

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UPDATE *is published by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) as part of its Compliance Assistance Program. Comments, suggestions and article ideas may be directed to* Update *Editor Lisa Woodard.*

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Air . Quality . Calendar

Jul 12: July's Board of Directors meeting postponed one week, to July 12. The 9 a.m. meeting will be in Rooms 320-321, Spokane Regional Health District building, 1101 W. College Ave.

Aug 2: Board of Directors meeting. 9 a.m., lower level hearing room, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's Board of Directors conduct their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise publicized. Meeting begin at 9 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.

This newsletter is available electronically at Spokane Clean Air's website. To add or remove names to **UPDATE** *mailing list, call 477-4727.*

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