

Cook County Department of Environmental Control Comments
on
City of Chicago Department of Public Health, Article II. Air Pollution Control Proposed Rules
and Regulations for the Handling and Storage of Bulk Material Piles

Section 3.0(2)b Fugitive Dust – Prohibited. This section refers to an opacity reading of 10% as a threshold for addressing fugitive dust.

Comment: Please state if the opacity reading will be based on a visual (qualitative) or metered (quantitative) reading.

Section 3.0(3) Fugitive Dust Plan – Required. This section states “If there is any change, modification, or addition to any Facility component described in an approved Fugitive Dust Plan, the Facility Owner or Operator shall submit an amended Fugitive Dust Plan to the Department for review and approval within thirty (30) days of such change, modification, or addition.”

Comment: Please clarify if the plan will be submitted with 30 days prior to or after the change, modification, or addition.

Section 3.0(3)d Fugitive Dust Plan – Required. This section states “A description of all control measures, devices, and technologies to be used to minimize and control Fugitive Dust”

Comment: Training of staff on control measures, devices, and technologies should also be documented in the Fugitive Dust Plan.

Section 3.0(3)f Fugitive Dust Plan – Required. This section states “A dust monitoring plan that describes the placement, operation, and maintenance of the PM10 monitors required under paragraph 3.0(6)(f), including an explanation of background levels that will determine the reportable action level.”

Comment: The Fugitive Dust Plan should also specify items including sampling frequency, sample chain-of-custody, sample result turn-around time, etc., as these items will allow the facility to take proactive measures to control dust. In addition, the determination of the reportable action level is not clear. Will background levels be used as reportable action levels?

Section 3.0(3)g Fugitive Dust Plan – Required. This section discusses response activities when reportable action levels are exceeded, and a contingency plan for alternative method of monitoring in the event of a malfunction or failure of monitors.

Comment: The alternative method of monitoring should have similar measurement frequencies, precision and accuracy requirements, etc. as the primary method of monitoring.

Section 3.0(3)h Fugitive Dust Plan – Required. This section states the plan shall include “A description of the Facility’s recordkeeping system, which shall include a schedule for routine inspection and maintenance of the control measures, devices, and technologies, and the identity of the person or persons responsible for such maintenance and testing.”

Comment: It is recommended that the inspection documentation specifically discuss inspection of piles, monitors, and off-site areas for the presence of dust.

Section 3.0(4)b Enclosure of Bulk Solid Material. This section discusses structures used to store Bulk Solid Materials and that they shall be situated on an impermeable base or pad.

Comment: Will the regulations required the impermeable base or pad to be a constructed item, or will native materials of sufficient impermeability, such as clay, be allowed?

Section 3.0(5)c)iii Outdoor Bulk Solid Material Storage – When Allowed. This section states “Setbacks from Facility boundaries shall be...100 feet from public ways.

Comment: The facility boundary is likely to be coincident with the public way. Please clarify how this setback distance will be determined.

Section 3.0(6)c)i. Outdoor Bulk Solid Material Storage – Best Management Practices. This section discusses wind barriers for Outdoor Bulk Solid Material Storage and states that wind barriers “shall completely surround the storage pile and immediately adjacent material Processing area(s).”

Comment: Section 3.06c)i. appears to be in conflict with Section 3.05 (Outdoor Bulk Solid Material Storage – When Allowed) which states that “no material processing...may occur outdoors.” Please clarify if processing will be allowed outdoors or if the intent is to allow processing outdoors if it occurs within the wind barriers.

Section 3.0(6)e) High Wind Events. This section states “Disturbance of outdoor Bulk Solid Material piles, including but not limited to outdoor loading, unloading, and any other Processing, shall be suspended during High Wind Conditions”, with High Wind Conditions defined as wind speeds exceeding 15 miles per hour.

Comment: Due to the varying nature of wind conditions and speeds in the area, high fluctuations in wind speed and duration are encountered. Please clarify if High Wind Conditions will be based on sustained measurements, one-time readings, or other periodic measurements.

Section 3.0(6)f) Fugitive Dust Monitoring. This section discusses the use of a Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) for PM₁₀ for monitors installed around the perimeter of the facility.

Comment: Similar to regional monitoring for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), it is suggested that the facility submit to the city an annual air monitoring data certification letter to certify data collected at all FEM stations meet criteria in 40 CFR 58 Appendix A. In addition, a summary of the precision and accuracy data for all air quality data collected at the FEM stations should be included with the certification letter.

Section 3.0(6)h)ii. Dust Suppressant System. This section states “The Water Spray System shall not be out of operation for more than 24 consecutive hours unless the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, unless the Water Spray System is capable of operating in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Comment: This section seems to indicate that the Dust Suppressant System can be out of service for up to 24 hours. Please clarify if the system may be out of service for up to 24 hours, and if so, what actions the facility is required to implement to address this out of service scenario.

Section 3.0(15)a) Transport. This section states “All trucks adhere to the posted speed limit within the Facility, which shall be no more than 8 miles per hour.”

Comment: It is recommended that all vehicles (on-road and off-road) handling or transporting petcoke be limited to the 8 mile per hour to minimize fugitive dust emissions.

Section 3.0(18) Variance from Operating and Maintenance Practices. This section states “A variance may be revoked at any time if the commissioner finds that operation of the Facility is creating a public nuisance or otherwise adversely impacting the surrounding area, surrounding environment, or surrounding property uses.”

Comment: Please clarify if the variance may be revoked without a hearing. If a hearing is required, please reference the section of the city’s code with the regulations for hearings.

Section 4.0 Recordkeeping. This section discusses the recordkeeping requirements for the facility.

Comment: Section 3.0(6)e) requires the facility to install, operate and maintain, according to manufacturer’s specifications, a weather station or other permanent device to monitor wind speed at the facility; therefore, the recordkeeping requirements should also include weather conditions including wind speed and direction.