



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Responds to Petition from Environmental Groups

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department provided the following response to the petition filed today with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the Clean Air Council, PennEnvironment, Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future, and Clean Water Action:

“We, at the Allegheny County Health Department, appreciate the concerns raised by environmental groups in regards to the Title V Operating permits. Issuing and renewing the permits in a timely manner is a priority for the department. However, it is critical that permits are accurate and many factors can cause delay. Delays may arise in obtaining more information from the source including testing requirements, in the request for an installation permit, or in resolving outstanding compliance issues.

“Air pollution sources in Allegheny County are controlled by many forms of regulations and permits - installation permits, and federal, state and local regulations. A backlog of permit renewals is common among air pollution agencies across the Nation for the reasons mentioned. It should be noted that under county and federal regulations, Title V operating permits at the end of their term do not simply expire. They remain in full force until the permit is renewed.

“Today, all major sources in Allegheny County are currently under a Title V operating permit except two, one of which is currently in public comment, the other which is delayed due to a federal court order. No source may increase its emissions above the current operating or installation permits. In other words, the lack of a renewed permit does not alleviate in any way the obligations of a source to comply with all county, state and federal regulations or other requirements.”

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