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Health Department Announces Status Report of Operating Permits on Website

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department announced today that it has updated its website to include a status report of the Air Quality Title V Operating Permits. The information, which will be updated regularly, provides the date of the most recently issued permit, the date of the most recent application received, recent stack test dates, and updates on work currently being done on the permit. This spreadsheet will provide the public with important information on the progress of the Title V program.

“We are making every effort to provide transparent information to the public on our progress regarding Title V operating permits,” said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. “There have been many questions recently on progress and this information should help clarify the steps involved in each permit.”

Title V Operating Permits are issued to all major emission sources as well as a few minor sources required by the U.S. EPA to obtain a major source permit. Major sources are defined as those with the potential to emit greater than 50 tons per year of volatile organic compounds, 100 tons per year of other criteria pollutants, 10 tons per year of a single hazardous air pollutant, or 25 tons per year of combined hazardous air pollutants.

Of the 34 sources in Allegheny County currently required to have a Title V Operating permit, six do not presently have such a permit. One source, Eastman Chemicals, has been delayed due a federal consent decree. The Health Department has closed comments on a proposed permit for a second source, Allegheny Ludlum. Pittsburgh Terminals at Neville Island recently became a major source, and the remaining three are minor sources that only recently, due to federal regulation, are now required to obtain a Title V permit.

There has historically been a backlog of Title V air quality permits. Since 2013, however, the department has increased its efforts, issuing or putting out to public comment all but one of the original Title V Operating Permits, and improving processing time on renewals such that Title V Operating Permit output has increased by over 80% since 2013. The renewal rate is now similar to that of the closest agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Southwest office.

For more information, visit www.achd.net/air.

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