

Permit Review Process

EPA Update & Perspective
ASTSWMO Training Conference
August 2019

Points of Discussion

- ▶ EPA's Permit Oversight Policy/Framework
- ▶ Current EPA Permit Streamlining Efforts
- ▶ Potential Future EPA Permit Streamlining Efforts

EPA's Permit Oversight Policy & Framework

- ▶ Announced by Henry Darwin, EPA's Acting Deputy Administrator, at Spring 2019 ECOS Meeting
- ▶ Goal is to develop a national approach to oversight of permits and permitting programs that is ***consistent*** and ***standardized***
- ▶ Would apply to the following state & EPA permit programs:
 - ▶ New Source Review (NSR), Title V, NPDES, Underground Injection Control (UIC), and RCRA

EPA's Permit Oversight Policy & Framework

- ▶ Facets of the strategy thus far:
 - ▶ Differential oversight
 - ▶ Elevation process
 - ▶ Criteria/metrics for timeliness and quality of permits
 - ▶ Predictable review process
 - ▶ Include oversight of “real-time permits” and permitting programs
 - ▶ Engaging states in the development process!

EPA's Permit Oversight Policy & Framework

▶ Development Timeline

- ▶ **Summer 2019** – EPA-state workgroups developing key considerations by permit program
 - ▶ RCRA Reps: Chip Crockett (ADEM), Victoria Phillips (MassDEP), Mary Setnicar (Region 5), Lisa McArthur (Region 10)
- ▶ **Fall 2019** - Draft policy and framework completed and shared with states
- ▶ **Late November 2019** – Final policy completed

Current EPA Permit Streamlining Efforts

- ▶ EPA's FY2018-2022 Strategic Plan, Objective 3.4
"Issue permits more quickly and modernize our permitting and reporting systems."

Strategic Measure

SM-22 By September 30, 2022, reach all permitting-related decisions within six months.

**EPA permits
only!**

Current EPA RCRA Permit Streamlining Efforts

- ▶ Tracking EPA-issued backlog permits on a monthly basis
- ▶ Revised RCRAInfo report shows the expiration for all permitted facilities, identifies backlog by state/Region
- ▶ Developing a federal RCRA permit applicant checklist based on a version developed by Texas CEQ
- ▶ Upgrading permit module in RCRAInfo V6; will include ability to attach permit documents
- ▶ National permitting priority areas, e.g., upcoming example permit language for RCRA Subparts AA/BB/CC exemption/election provisions
- ▶ RCRA training website; RCRA permit writers training

Current EPA RCRA Permit Streamlining Efforts

- ▶ [RCRA Permitting Toolbox](#) – lessons learned from EPA Region 1 and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Lean event (2016)
- ▶ Best practices include:
 - Eliminating steps through development of templates
 - Introducing an in-person meeting at the beginning of the process
 - Using a team-based approach for reviewing permit applications
- ▶ Tools include:
 - Template letter reminding facility to re-apply for permit
 - Pre-application meeting agenda and timeline
 - Internal tracking system for when permits will expire

Savings from RCRA Permitting Process Improvements

Actual savings for the new process:

- Reduced the number of process steps from 31 to 24 (22% reduction)
- Reduced processing time from 24 to 16 weeks (33% reduction)
- Reduced total time to public notice from 15 to 6.5 months (57% reduction)

Potential Future EPA RCRA Permit Streamlining Efforts

- ▶ Enabling electronic submittal of Part A permit form
- ▶ Template permit NOD/denial letters for RCRA program
- ▶ FY2020 national permitting priority areas – (see Permitting Potpourri Session!)
- ▶ We are interested in hearing what you are doing!