INTRODUCTION TO MAERS

Michigan Air Pollution Control Rule R336.202 (Rule 2) requires an annual report from a commercial, industrial, or governmental source of emission of an air contaminant if, in the judgment of the Department, information on the quantity and composition of an air contaminant emitted from the source is considered by the Department as necessary for the proper management of the air resources. In addition, other state rules and federal statutes and regulations require sources to report air emissions if certain conditions are met.

The Air Quality Division (AQD) has outlined the general criteria that are used to determine if a source must report in Operational Memorandum 13. The goal is to require emissions reporting for:

- Sources that are specifically required to report emissions or compliance status in accordance with an Air Pollution Control Rule or federal Clean Air Act requirement, including sources subject to an emissions fee and sources that have "opted out" of the Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) Program;
- Sources that wish to be included in the inventory so that they can participate in the emissions trading program; and,
- Sources that emit sufficient quantities of air contaminants to warrant their inclusion in county or statewide inventories used to manage the air resource and support the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Sources that meet the criteria are notified that they must report emissions and related information each January in accordance with Rule 2. The Michigan Air Emissions Reporting System (MAERS) web portal will be used for reporting. This year the notification to report and MAERS portal with log in instructions will be sent via e-mail to the Facility Emission Inventory contact in January. The reports are due each year by March 15.

MAERS accommodates electronic data submittals, the printing of submittal forms, emission unit grouping of source processes, and includes an emissions calculator.

Sources are only required to report emissions information for criteria pollutants (those related to a National Ambient Air Quality Standard). Emissions information must be reported for following pollutants: Ammonia, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Oxides of Nitrogen, Particulates (smaller than 10 microns in diameter), Particulates (smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter), Sulfur Dioxide, and Volatile Organic Compounds.

In addition to criteria pollutants, the emissions calculator contains emission factors for hazardous air pollutants. The AQD will use the emission factor generated hazardous pollutant emissions for environmental assessments and planning purposes. Sources are asked to review the hazardous emission levels predicted by the emissions calculator. If they are inaccurate, each source is encouraged to submit emissions estimates for these pollutants voluntarily. Accurate emission estimates of hazardous air pollutants are necessary to appropriately evaluate any possible air toxics concerns in Michigan.

CONTACTS:

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