

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION**

Air Toxics Screening Level Justifications Open for Public Comment

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Air Quality Division (AQD) develops air toxics screening levels which are health-based ambient air concentrations that provide a level of public health protection. These screening levels are developed according to the Air Pollution Control Rules (Part 55, Air Pollution Control) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994). The screening levels are used in the implementation of Michigan's air permitting rules that apply to new or modified sources that emit a toxic air contaminant and are required to obtain a Permit to Install. Under these rules, the emission of a toxic air contaminant cannot result in a maximum ambient air concentration that exceeds the applicable health-based screening level.

Historically, AQD toxicologists developed screening levels and posted them on the AQD webpage, whereas the "justification" memos describing the bases for the screening levels were only available upon request. The public has always been welcomed to comment to AQD informally about the screening levels and how they were derived. Under rule revisions in effect on December 20, 2016, the AQD has formalized the comment process. The AQD is now required to provide a 60-day formal public comment period on the health-based screening levels and their justifications. The initial list of screening levels and justification documents undergoing comment is for over 1,200 toxic air contaminants. The AQD will accept comments on these screening levels for 60 days, from **February 14 to April 14, 2017**. AQD will respond to the commenters on all substantive comments received within 180 days of the close of the public comment period. AQD will also post on this website the paraphrased comments for each toxic air contaminant and the AQD responses, including any changes to the screening levels resulting from addressing the comments received.

After this large initial group of screening levels has undergone public comment, subsequent additions or changes to the screening levels will also undergo formal public review and comment. Within six months, the new or revised screening levels and justification documents will be posted for formal public review and comment for a period of 30 days followed by AQD responses within 60 days.

As directed by the rules, all screening levels are in effect immediately once established by the AQD, notwithstanding the formal public comment process. This is to provide clarity to permit applicants and ensure that permitting will be timely.

In order to submit a comment from the webpage preceding this information sheet, locate the toxic air contaminant from the screening level list sorted alphabetically (by chemical name) or sorted by Chemical Abstract Service number (CAS No.). In the table column for "Public Comment: E-Mail AQD", select the link for "Send Comment" and then type in your comments. Please make sure to include your contact information at the end of your comment so staff may reach you if any clarification is needed. If attaching files, please remember there is a 10 MB maximum. The following file types are *not* allowed as attachments: EXE and MS Access databases.