

COMMENT/RESPONSE DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT NUMBER: GENERAL PERMIT WMGR019

BENEFICIAL USE OF WASTE FOUNDRY SAND

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL AND RESIDUAL WASTE**

10-3-2007

LIST OF COMMENTATORS

1. Pennsylvania Foundry Association.

A. Description.

Comment: RETAIN THE DE-WASTING PROVISION OF WMGR098 IN THE RENEWAL OF WMGR019.

The proposed renewal does not include any de-wasting provision. Such a provision was included in the DEP-initiated beneficial use general permit WMGR098, which is still in effect for certain foundry sand. De-wasting provisions also have been included in other beneficial use general permits. A de-wasting provision facilitates acceptance of alternate materials by potential end-users of foundry by-products. Without a de-wasting provision, beneficial use materials carry an obstacle that is not shared by competing materials. This burden often can discourage potential end-users from considering beneficial use materials, even in cases where the performance of the beneficial use materials exceeds that of traditional products. The following is the de-wasting provision in WMGR098 that PFA recommends to be included in the final renewal of WMGR019:

“The waste foundry sand authorized under the terms and conditions of this general permit shall cease to be a waste if the following requirements are met:

- a. The waste foundry sand complies with the requirements as specified in Conditions 2 and 3 of this general permit (*comparable to WMGR 019’s waste description and chemical concentration limits provisions*);
- b. The waste foundry sand is sold, traded, distributed or given away for the uses specified in this general permit;
- c. The waste foundry sand is not abandoned or disposed; and
- d. The beneficial use of the waste foundry sand complies with the terms and conditions specified in the Appendix A “User Restrictions” of this general permit. (*comparable to WMGR019’s Appendix A provision*)”

PFA proposes that DEP adopt the following amendments to WMGR019 within one year after its renewal becomes final. Deferring consideration of these proposed amendments will enable the expeditious final approval of the renewal of WMGR019. (1)

Response: The Department has amended the general permit to reflect the suggested change by including a dewasting condition in the final permit.

Comment: AMENDMENT #1 – AMEND THE RE-ANALYSIS PROVISION OF WMGR098 INTO THE RENEWED WMGR 019.

The proposed renewal of WMGR019 requires annual re-analysis, with no provision for analysis certification. Analysis certification is allowed under WMGR098 for five consecutive years after the initial analysis. The certification is authorized for all of general permit 098’s chemical parameters that are no higher than 65% of the specified permit limit in the original analysis. The certification also requires that the process by which the foundry waste is generated has not changed from that specified in the original permit application. Since many of the chemical parameters in both the original version and the proposed renewal version of WMGR019 have been undetected, or detected in only *de minimus* quantities in Pa. foundry analyses, certification

is fully justified. Certification also is important to ensure that the economic burdens of annual re-analysis do not hinder small generators from participating in beneficial use. The following is the certification provision of WMGR098 that PFA recommends to be amended into WMGR019 after its renewal:

“After a satisfactory initial analysis has been completed and submitted to the Department, in lieu of the annual analysis, an authorized representative of the generator may sign and submit to the Department, an analysis certification for all the parameters in Table I that do not exceed 65% of the specified permit limit and the process by which the waste foundry sand was generated has not changed from that specified in the original permit application. However, this analysis certification may only be used for five consecutive years, after which the complete analysis required in Condition 3 must once again be completed.” (1)

Response: The Department has amended the general permit to reflect the suggested change by including an analysis certification condition in the final permit.

Comment: **AMENDMENT #2 – AMEND WMGR019 TO INCLUDE SLAG, REFRACTORY AND DUST COLLECTOR RESIDUALS AS BENEFICIAL USE MATERIALS.**

In the eleven years since the original WMGR019 was issued, more potential end uses have been identified for foundry operations’ other by-products: slag, refractory and dust collector residuals. For example, residuals from finishing departments’ dust collectors are useful to the cement industry and highly valued for both their silica and iron content. Slag and refractory have always been recognized for their value in roadway construction. In fact, two general permits were issued in 1996 covering slag and refractory for roadway construction. Unfortunately, the slag and refractory permits were not renewed because these materials usually are not generated in sufficient quantities by single foundries for highway projects. The expansion of acceptable end-uses in the renewal of WMGR019, however, opens smaller markets to these materials and their generators. PFA recognizes that additional conditions or restrictions (that are material-specific and/or end use-specific) may be needed in the permit’s appendix. PFA pledges its continued cooperation with DEP to formulate appropriate amendments to WMGR019 after its renewal.

DEP has made great progress in providing the permit infrastructure that encourages the responsible re-use of foundry sand. For its part, Pa.’s foundry industry also has made great progress in developing potential end-use markets and in managing foundry sand to improve its value as a commercial commodity. PFA looks forward to helping DEP to apply this infrastructure to other foundry residuals to achieve maximum beneficial reuse by Pa. foundries. (1)

Response: The Department agrees that WMGR019 can be modified when the additional information is developed and submitted by the foundry industry. The Department will continue to work with the industry to facilitate the beneficial use of the slag and baghouse dust where possible.