

Department Implements Innovative Plan Approval Streamlining Process

On July 1, 2005, the DEP launched an innovative voluntary program designed to test the implementation of a system to reduce all air plan approval issuance processing times. This initiative presents a new opportunity for facilities to partner with the DEP to streamline the plan approval application process.

In exchange for anticipated shorter plan approval processing times, applicants will be expected to meet with the appropriate regional office staff prior to the submittal of their plan approval application. Applicants are also expected to submit applications that are both administratively and technically complete, and respond to Department requests for needed additional information in shortened timeframes. If the applicants cannot meet the shorter response times, their applications will be subject to the existing Money-Back Guarantee (MBG) program timeframes. The Department will expect any additional information required for completing review of the application to be provided within 21 days of notification.

The following chart reflects plan approval types and the MBG and pilot program timeframes, as well as timeframes of other key states:

Plan Approval Type	MBG Days	Pilot Program Timeframes (Business Days)
PSD Review	365	180
Non-Attainment New Source Review	365	180
Minor Plan Approval at Major Facility	180	100
MACT - Air Toxics Plan Approvals	180	150
New Source Performance Standards	180	120
General Plan Approvals	30	≤ 30
State-Only Minor Facility	180	100
Minor Significance Review	50	≤ 30

The pilot program will be conducted through June 30, 2006. During this period, performance and review procedures will be carefully monitored and evaluated. It is anticipated that procedural adjustments made through the pilot program period will allow for institutionalizing the abbreviated timeframes.