



An agricultural research partnership of TAES, WITAMU, TCE, KSU and USDA-ARS funded by USDA-CSREES



Center for Agricultural Air Quality Engineering & Science

NSR/CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING

FACT SHEET

New Source Review (NSR) requires stationary sources of air pollution to obtain permits before they start construction when either the new source or modifications to the existing source result in a change in the amount or type of pollutant emitted. The NSR process is also referred to as the construction permitting process.

There are three types of NSR permits including:

1. Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits, which are required for new major sources or a major source making a major modification in an attainment area;
2. Nonattainment area NSR permits, which are required for new major sources or major sources making a major modification in a nonattainment area; and
3. Minor source permits for new minor sources or minor sources proposing modifications.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

The goals of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit are:

1. Protect public health and welfare;
2. Preserve, protect and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic or historic value;
3. Insure economic growth will occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources; and
4. Assure any decision to permit increased air pollution in an area to which this section applies is made only after careful evaluation of all consequences of such a decision and after adequate procedural opportunities for informed public participation in the decision-making process.

Nonattainment NSR

Nonattainment NSR applies to new major sources or major modifications at existing sources for pollutants, where the area the source is located is not in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Nonattainment NSR requirements are customized for the nonattainment area. All nonattainment NSR programs have to require (1) the installation of the lowest achievable emission rate (LAER), (2) emission offsets, and (3) opportunity for public involvement.

Minor Source Permits

Minor source NSR is applicable for stationary sources that do not require PSD or nonattainment NSR permits. This type of NSR permit is most applicable to agriculture. All cotton gins, feed mills and grain elevators are required to obtain minor source permits. The purpose of minor NSR permits is to prevent the construction of sources that would interfere with attainment or maintenance of NAAQS or violate the control strategies in nonattainment areas. As such, minor source NSR permits specify the air pollution control equipment required for a facility and also define the allowable emission rate from the facility.



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