

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

DRAFT POLICY/PROCEDURE STATEMENT

**TOPIC: REQUESTED PERMIT LIMITS**

**Policy Procedure Number:** 3-b-09

**Replaces Number:**

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**Preparer:** David Phelps

**Reviewer:**

**Approval: Bureau Chief: Peter Hamlin**

**Date:** 11/2/98

**Division Administrator: Allan Stokes**

**Date:** 11/12/98

**Applicable Code of Iowa or Iowa Administrative Code Rule:** 567 IAC 22.3

**Attachments:** None

**REASON OR BACKGROUND**

Many facilities request permit limits. These limits range from emission rates to material usage and often these limits are lower than what would otherwise be required by rule. These limits are requested for many reasons that include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ To allow for future growth, but still stay under regulatory thresholds.
- ◆ The facility may want to keep allowables low so that the public perception of the facilities' emissions is not distorted by emission limits that are significantly greater than the actual emissions.
- ◆ To keep all contemporaneous net emission increases at the facility below the PSD significance levels.

Historically, the air construction permit staff has not always placed lower limits on the source(s) even though the facility requested it. An example of this is in the case of a paint booth. Many facilities request a material usage limit on their paint and solvent usage. This limit is to keep their VOC emissions below 100 tons per year (TPY) and to also allow for future expansion. Often the requested material usage limit will hold the VOC emissions for the paint booth to anywhere from 5 TPY to 20 TPY. For example, in the past instead of granting this limit, the Department frequently wrote the limit for the equivalent of 39 TPY or 99 TPY. By doing this we force the facility to either become a Title V source or modify a permit if they want to add any other VOC source in the future. This example is not limited to VOCs.

When a company requests a lower limit, it must also include the rationale for that limit. As long as these requested limits do not violate or conflict with any regulations such as IAC, NAAQS, NSPS, NESHAPS, etc. and the source has the potential to comply with the requested limit, then that limit will be placed in the permit.

### DETAILS

When a facility sends in an application and requests a permit limit (for any pollutant regulated in Chapters 20-31 of the Iowa Code), the Department will grant the requested limit as long as it does not violate or conflict with any regulations and the engineer has determined the source capable of meeting that limit.

It should be noted that using the requested limit of the facility does not exclude the facility from possible modeling, compliance testing, or enforcement action if the facility violates this permit limit. Facilities should be aware that when a very low emission limit is requested, stack testing may be required to demonstrate compliance with that limit. In addition, the Department always retains the right to refuse to grant the requested limit if deemed necessary. As the permit is drafted, the applicant will be notified if the permit limit is proposed to be different than the requested limit.