

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

POLICY/PROCEDURE STATEMENT

TOPIC: Temporary Emergency Generators

Policy Procedure Number : 3-b-14

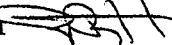
Replaces Number:

Date: 7/27/99


Effective Date: Upon Approval Through  
January 31, 2000

Preparer: David Phelps

Reviewer: Pete Hamlin

Approval: Bureau Chief: Pete Hamlin 

Date: 8/12

Division Administrator: Michael Valde 

Date: 8/17/99

Applicable Code of Iowa or Iowa Administrative Code Rule(s):

22.1(1) Permit Required.

Attachments: None.

REASON OR BACKGROUND

Iowa rules require a air construction permit for generators with a rated horsepower of greater than 400. The Department routinely issues permits for emergency and backup generators although in reality they are not used more than a minimal number of hours per year. In anticipation of potential power problems associated with the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer issues, many facilities will be renting generators to either take the plant out of service or maintain operations until power is restored. Although it is not expected that the generators will be used for more than the routine monthly testing, the risk to the facilities warrants that generators be on site. After the first of the year, the generators may be removed. For this reason, it does not seem logical to require the facility to obtain a permit, and then require the facility to request the permit be revoked. This policy would not apply to generators that are purchased by the facility. To avoid those unnecessary activities, the department will not require permits for Y2K generators under the following circumstances:

- 1) the generators will not be operated for any purpose other than for Y2K emergencies and for manufacturer's recommended testing,
- 2) no more than one Y2K generator will be tested at any one time,
- 3) the Y2K generators will not be in service later than January 31, 2000,
- 4) records of all hours of usage, including startup, shutdown, testing and maintenance of each Y2K generator will be kept until the unit is taken off site,
- 5) Y2K generators will be limited to the combustion of natural gas, LP, propane, diesel fuel, gasoline, No. 1 or No. 2 fuel oil,
- 6) the facility will notify the Department in writing prior to the initial site startup of the unit(s).

Although a construction permit will not be required under these circumstances, the Department may require that the facility demonstrate that the testing or emergency operation will not cause or contribute to a modeled ambient air exceedence in a sensitive area. In addition, the Department reserves the right to require submittal of supporting documentation that any specific generator was used for Y2K emergencies.

Although the Y2K generators would not need to be listed as emission units at Title V sources, the emissions of these generators must be included in any Title V fee calculation.