

Health Protection Air Quality By-law 2010-035

Fact Sheet – Major Emission Reduction Strategy

By-law 2012-066, A by-law to amend By-law 2010-035, to assess and control the health effects of major emissions of fine particulate matter in the Town of Oakville.

Approved July 9, 2012

What is the purpose of the “major emission reduction strategy” (MERS) option?

- To provide an additional option for existing facilities causing a major emission that plan to reduce their health-risk air pollutant¹ (HRAP) emissions to below the major emission thresholds prior to 2014.

What is a “MERS” for existing facilities?

- A strategy for reducing the emission of HRAPs to below the major emission thresholds by an existing facility in the year of 2013.
- The strategy should include a minimum of the following two components and other relevant information (*Note: Preparation of the MERS is not intended to be onerous and it is preferred that existing reports be provided as opposed to new documentation*):
 - a. Facility description: Unless information needs to be updated, town will accept the information already provided in Section 4 emission reporting.
 - b. Implementation plan: a detailed description of the steps and measures to be taken to reduce the emission of HRAPs in order that the facility does not causes a major emission after December 31, 2012, including:
 - § a brief description of actions or measures of the reduction strategy,
 - § a business case (technological and economic feasibility study) for the strategy,
 - § the impacts (positive and negative, if any) of the proposed strategy on human health and the environment,
 - § a proposed implementation timeline,
 - § estimation of the emission reductions (in kilogram and in percentage of the original emissions), and
 - § relevant information filed pursuant to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) and/or the Ontario Toxics Reduction Act, 2009.

What are the requirements?

- Under the amendment, the MERS option is for existing facilities with a major emission of a HRAP that plan to reduce their emissions below the major emission thresholds in the year of 2013. The facility would demonstrate that they would not cause a major emission of HRAP for the year 2013 pursuant to Environment Canada’s National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI).
- Existing facilities may submit a MERS instead of an application for a site-specific approval of its air emissions in September 2012.

¹ “Health-risk air pollutant” and other terms are defined in the by-law, and includes fine PM, as well as nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulphur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds (“precursor pollutants”).

Health Protection Air Quality By-law 2010-035

Fact Sheet – Major Emission Reduction Strategy

- Existing facilities choose to submit a MERS will be required to provide the town:
 - an interim report regarding the status of implementation of the strategy and the 2012 NPRI emissions information on or before **June 30, 2013**.
 - a final report regarding the results of the strategy, an amendment to the Section 4 emission report, including the updated average and worst-case rates of daily and annual emissions, and the 2013 NPRI emissions information on or before **June 30, 2014**.
- A prescribed fee of \$25,000 is required to demonstrate commitment. This fee includes \$5,000 for administration and \$20,000 that will be reimbursed to the facility if the major emission reduction strategy as implemented reduces the emissions and the facility demonstrates it does not cause a major emission for the year 2013 as reported in the final report.
- If the facility has implemented the MERS and yet continues to cause a major emission in the year of 2013, the facility will be required to obtain a site-specific approval of its air emissions and the \$20,000 of the prescribed fee will be applied to cover the costs to the town of retaining a qualified independent peer reviewer to review the application moving through the two-phase approvals process.

When is this by-law amendment being phased-in?

- Effective September 2012, Section 6 of the by-law will require **all existing facilities causing a major emission** of fine PM and/or any precursor pollutants to **either** provide a MERS or to obtain town approval for their emissions.

For more information...

For information on the Health Protection Air Quality By-law, including compliance guidance documents, staff reports, presentations, and a copy of the by-law, refer to the town's website, or contact Jeffrey Lee, Research Policy Analyst - Air, Environmental Policy:

- Website: <http://www.oakville.ca/environment/health-protection-air-quality.html>
- Email: healthprotection@oakville.ca
- Tel: 905.845.6601, ext. 3149