Minor Source Emissions Inventory FAQs

What is the purpose of the inventory?

The Minor Source Emission Inventory (MSEI) is intended to collect, in a standard format, information about the sources and quantity of air pollutants emitted from small to medium-sized facilities. The DNR is also using EPA's standardized estimates of emissions from many other sources such as commercial activity, dry cleaners, gas stations, and other sources.

How will the DNR use this emissions data?

This information will assist DNR in continuing to manage our air resources. This includes planning pollution control programs, identifying general emission levels, and locating ambient air monitors to ensure our air meets federal health standards. The inventory will help characterize public health risks and track air quality changes. Lastly, the data will help Iowa and other states plan strategies to manage pollution that drifts across state boundaries and different regions of the nation.

I completed one of these three years ago. Do I need to complete another one?

Yes. The DNR will notify your facility if it is subject to the inventory. Since your last submittal, the actual emissions and stack parameters may have changed. The DNR needs the most accurate and current information available to effectively manage our air resources.

Are other states collecting similar information?

Yes. Other states have collected this type of information for many years. For example, Wisconsin and Illinois have collected inventories for decades.

My facility doesn't emit much pollution. Is the DNR requiring emissions inventories from larger facilities?

The DNR Air Quality Bureau also collects annual emission inventories from about 300 of Iowa's largest sources of air emissions that are subject to the Title V Operating Permit program.

Is completing the inventory mandatory?

Yes. The Code of Iowa (Section 455B.133) gives the DNR the authority to "classify air contaminant sources according to levels and types of emissions…" and to "require, by rule, the owner or operator of any air contaminant source to establish and maintain such records [and] make such reports…" Subrule 567 IAC 21.1(3) states "The person responsible for equipment as defined herein shall provide information on fuel use, materials processed, air contaminants emitted (including greenhouse gases as "greenhouse gas" is defined in rule 567-20.2(455B)), estimated rate of emissions, periods of emissions or other air pollution information to the director upon the director's written request for use in compiling and maintaining an emissions inventory for evaluation of the air pollution situation in the state and its various parts. The information requested shall be submitted on forms or by electronic format specified by the department. All information in regard to both actual and allowable emissions shall be public records, and any publication of such data shall be limited to actual and allowable air contaminant emissions."

Where can I obtain the MSEI reporting forms?

Minor Source Emission Inventory forms are available from the Air Quality Bureau website. The instructions and forms are available on the internet at the following site: http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/Emissions-Inventory/Minor-Source-Forms.

May I submit the MSEI electronically?

Yes. A new online emissions inventory reporting tool called the State and Local Emissions Inventory System (SLEIS) is available. The new web-based system has been pre-populated with historical emissions data as well as facility equipment, allowing for simpler and streamlined reporting. Also, SLEIS offers the option of importing emissions data via a spreadsheet template, significantly reducing data entry for facilities with a large number of emission processes. For more information about accessing your facility's data in SLEIS and e-reporting, please visit www.iowadnr.gov/eAirServices or contact DNR at sleis@dnr.iowa.gov.

Also available as a more limited option for facilities that may not be ready to transition to SLEIS, is electronic reporting in DNR's legacy SPARS system. The 2015 emissions year will be the final year that SPARS will be available for electronic emissions inventory reporting. If you facility is interested in this option, please contact DNR at SPARShelpdesk@dnr.iowa.gov for additional information.

What is the difference between a major and a minor source?

Per the definitions of "major source" and "subject to regulation" in 567 IAC 22.100, a facility is classified as a major source if it has the potential to emit 100 tons per year or more (total) of any air pollutant subject to regulation, more than 10 tons per year of any one Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP), or more than 25 tons per year of all HAPs combined. Facilities under these thresholds are classified as minor sources and may be required to complete the Minor Source Emission Inventory. Minor sources report emissions every three years while major sources report emissions each year and pay a fee based on emissions.

What is the difference between an emission unit and an emission point (release point)?

An emission unit is the equipment, process, or location where emissions are generated.
An emission point is the location where emissions enter the atmosphere. This could be a stack, vent or exhaust, or a fugitive release point. One emission unit may have more than one emission point such as a paint booth with two stacks. Also, one emission point may be venting emissions from more than one emission unit such as two boilers venting to the same stack.

What is an SIC code?

The MSEI asks for the SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) code on Form INV-1 of the MSEI. This is a four-digit number used to identify the type of industry and describe the activity occurring at the facility. In the four digit number, the first two digits are the "major group" of a facility, while the last two digits identify the specific type of facility. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual contains all the SIC codes and is available at your local library. The SIC code can also be found at the following Internet address: www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html.

What is a NAICS code?

The MSEI asks for the NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System) code on Form INV-1 of the MSEI. This is a six-digit number used to identify the type of industry and describe the activity occurring at the facility. This six-digit hierarchical structure allows greater coding flexibility than the four-digit structure of the SIC. The NAICS code may be found at http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012 or http://www.naics.com/search/.

What is an SCC number?

The SCC (source classification code) number is sometimes confused with the SIC (standard industrial classification) number. The SCC number is an 8-digit number that identifies the type of process or activity occurring at the specific emission unit. The SCC number is used on Form INV-4. The SCC number corresponds to the "Description of Process." The SCC number can be obtained from EPA documents that provide emission factors, such as AP-42 and WebFIRE. If an SCC number cannot be identified for the process in question, please contact Nick Page at 515-725-9544 or at nick.page@dnr.iowa.gov.

Source Classification Code List (XLS File)---Scroll down to the "Classification Lists" subheading and click on "Updated Source Classification Codes (SCC) – 12/3/15."

Ethanol and Biodiesel SCC List (XLS File)---Scroll down to the "Classification Lists" subheading and click on "Ethanol and Biodiesel Source Classification Code (SCC) List."

Where can I get latitude and longitude information?

Latitude and longitude may be obtained from:

- http://maps.google.com
- http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html
- http://earth.google.com
- http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/geocode

If the information cannot be obtained from the above sources, contact the DNR Emissions Inventory Staff for assistance.

Why Are Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) listed separately in the inventory?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is working to reduce releases of 187 hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) to the environment. Examples of HAPs include benzene, which is found in gasoline and methylene chloride, which is used as a solvent and paint stripper by a number of industries. Examples of other listed HAPs include asbestos, toluene, and metals such as cadmium, mercury, chromium, and lead compounds. People exposed to HAPs at sufficient concentrations and durations may have an increased chance of getting cancer or experiencing other serious health effects. A comprehensive inventory will help determine if the EPA data are valid and will also help EPA and DNR track expected reductions in HAP emissions from federal emission standards. A list of hazardous air pollutants may be viewed at http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/Operating-Permits/Title-V-Technical-Guidance and clicking on the "Hazardous Air Pollutants – sorted alphabetically" document.