

Compliance Deadline for Bulk Gasoline Distribution Rule is Jan. 10

The DNR reminds owners and operators of bulk gasoline distribution facilities that the compliance date for the Environmental Protection Agency's "6B" bulk gasoline distribution rule is January 10, 2011. The official name for this rule is the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Source Categories: Gasoline Distribution Bulk Terminals, Bulk Plants, and Pipeline Facilities (40 CFR Part 63, Subpart BBBBBB).

The 6B rule applies to area source* bulk gasoline terminals, pipeline breakout stations, pipeline pumping stations, and bulk gasoline plants. The purpose of this rule is to reduce the emissions of hazardous air pollutants to the environment and to protect public health. EPA estimates that compliance with 6B will result in national emissions reductions of 50,000 tons annually of volatile organic compounds, which will also eliminate nearly 5 million pounds annually of air toxics emissions, such as benzene.

In part, 6B requires:

- All bulk gasoline facilities must check for leaks and use good housekeeping procedures to prevent evaporation of gasoline.
- Bulk gasoline plants, terminals and breakout stations must use submerged fill or bottom fill pipes for loading gasoline into storage tanks, tank trucks and railcars.
- Facilities classified as terminals or breakout stations have additional emissions control requirements for storage tanks, and larger facilities also have additional control requirements for loading racks.

* *An area source is a facility that is not a major source of hazardous air pollutants (HAP). A major source is a facility that has the potential to emit 10 or more tons per year of any single HAP or 25 or more tons per year of any combination of HAP.*

All existing bulk gasoline distribution facilities must be in compliance with the 6B requirements, including recordkeeping and reporting, by January 10, 2011. Additionally, all gasoline bulk plants are required to have an air construction permit in order to establish enforceable limits on their loading racks and must submit a permit template application to the DNR no later than January 10, 2011.

Please read the additional articles below for more information on the 6B rule and bulk plant permitting requirements in Iowa, available online tools, and answers to frequently asked questions.