

Natural Minor (Reg. 1102) Fee Initiative
Public Workshops Held March 9 and 11, 2021

Below are responses to questions received during the public workshops or submitted via email.

Q: How many people are attending this workshop?

A: 16 registered for the 3/9 workshop and 36 registered for the 3/11 workshop.

Q: Some states are no longer advertising in the paper. Does DNREC intend to follow this?

A: Not at this time – we have expanded our website to include links to permit applications announcements. Our regulations currently require that we will advertise all eligible events in the newspaper. Any changes to this procedure would not be a policy change, but would be a change to our current regulations.

Q: I am not sure if this change affects the building I manage. How can I assure this?

A: You can submit your question (facility information, etc.) to our e-mail address – daqpermittinginfo@delaware.gov and we will address it accordingly.

Q: What is the current program cost?

A: Costs are approximately \$740,000.00 per year and revenue is approximately \$165,000.00 per year.

Q: Typically there are advertising fees associated with permitting. Have these also changed?

A: The current cost for advertising fees is \$325.00. That is the actual cost. We will continue to monitor the actual cost for advertising and adjust when necessary.

Q: Isn't the current Fuel Burning Unit consolidated fee \$390.00?

A: There are four categories currently. We have recommended that the four categories be consolidated into 1 category, with a cost of \$300.00 per unit.

Q: Where would crushing and screening equipment fall, particularly for crushing and screening of aggregate/demolished concrete and screening of soil?

A: This equipment would fall under the category of Process Units.

Q: Do you have targeted (estimated) fee schedules for the second two phases?

A: Not at this time – we will continue to review and assess the data before we schedule the second two phases.

Q: I was under the impression that the fees would increase by 1.5 times – not the proposed 1.8 times?

A: Minor changes have been made to the original proposed fee increase – this included rounding the fees to even numbers so that they made sense.

Q: Was there any consideration of having fees for inspections/stack testing, oversight, etc. where the complexity fees might be better weighted to those facilities that require more Program oversight?

- A: Yes – complexity fees are due when the application is submitted. DAQ would like to foster cooperation when conducting inspections – this would be more challenging if we were to hand a facility a bill every time we came to their facility. Stack testing is not conducted by DAQ, it is conducted by subcontractors. DAQ observes the stack testing. We can discuss this further, but a change of this type is not recommended at this time.
- Q: Is there any expected amount of units per fee scheduled? How many per permit units projected?
- A: Yes, please refer to the NM Fee Projections table on the DAQ NM Fee Initiative Website.
- Q: Are you making use of the latest data (2020)?
- A: No – 2020 was an unusual year for many reasons and we are not using it as a base year.
- Q: I had some questions regarding my company’s permitting. Would you be able to provide any records of what we are currently operating under?
- A: Yes, DAQ can determine if your facility has permits and provide copies of those permits to you. Please contact your facility engineer or send an email to daqpermittinginfo@delaware.gov.
- Q: Will my underground storage tank (UST) fees be affected?
- A: No, USTs are regulated by DNREC’s Tanks Compliance Branch of the Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances. The yearly UST fee assessed by the Tanks Compliance Branch will not be affected by the proposed changes in Natural Minor fees. However, permit fees will increase for Stage I or Stage II Vapor Recovery Permits at a Gasoline Dispensing Facility.
- Q: Does the Annual Fee category or Process Unit and/or VOC Unit apply to registered sources with pre-controlled emissions equal to or greater than 0.2 pounds per day and less than 10 pounds per day?
- A: To be eligible as a registered source, the emissions (without control) must be less than 10 pounds per day. Registered sources are not charged a fee.
- Q: Under Annual Fees, what is the difference between Fuel Burning Unit, Process Unit and VOC Unit?
- A: Fuel Burning Units are units such as boilers and crematories. VOC Units are degreasers and storage tanks. Process Units are most other types of units (all control devices, generators, paint booths, etc.)
- Q: Where would the following units be categorized: NG emergency generator, degreaser, grinding mill (PM source), analytical lab equipment (VOC/HAPs)?
- A: Generators are Process Units, degreasers are VOC Units, a grinding mill is a Process Unit, and analytical lab equipment would be a Process Unit.

Q: What is the difference between the Consolidated denotation for Fuel Burning and Process Unit Annual Fees versus the lack of similar language under VOC Unit Annual Fees?

A: Fuel burning and process unit categories in the current fees are separated based on the size of unit. We found that not all categories were utilized, which is why we are recommending consolidation. The VOC categories are well defined and clearly categorized so we are not recommending consolidation.

Q: What is the breakdown (as a percentage) between expected revenue from application fees versus expected revenue from annual fees to support the program?

A: Although the category increase is weighted toward the application fees, we expect approximately 40% of the total program revenue to come from application fees, and based on number of permits, 60% to come from annual fees if our recommendation is approved.