

Decommissioning Tips and Reminders

1. Maintain your equipment. Don't remove any part of the Stage II system without the prior approval of the department.

We are using enforcement discretion only in VERY specific situations regarding removal of Stage II and strictly following procedures set forth by the department. All other provisions of 10 CSR 10-5.220 (the St. Louis Vapor Recovery regulations) still apply. Inspectors will continue to conduct inspections at all facilities.

If Stage II remains in place at a facility it must be maintained for emissions, health and safety reasons. If facilities fail to apply for the appropriate construction permits before decommissioning, fail to maintain their equipment, or violate other provisions of the regulation they are still subject to enforcement action.

2. Will you be sealing the vapor lines at the tank end?

Please specify in your construction permit application whether vapor lines will be sealed at the tank end or not.

Decommissioning guidance requires that the vapor lines be securely sealed off at the dispenser. It only requires them to be sealed off at the tank end if "easily accessible"

3. There is no "rush" to decommission.

While there will be a date sometime in the future that you are required to remove Stage II, the department has not established a date yet. We will establish the date with the rule revisions and the date will be several years down the road.

Weigh the costs and benefits when determining the right time for your facility. While there is some cost in continuing to purchase new Stage II hanging hardware it may be less than the cost of the decommissioning work and additional testing that is required. Do you have some other project or required testing that will need to be done in the near future? Would waiting for a period of time and saving the cost of additional testing be worthwhile in this situation?

4. There is still a small amount of risk involved in decommissioning early.

While we don't expect any issues with our current process for phasing out the Stage II program there is still a slight risk associated with early removal. We have been working closely with the EPA on our proposed demonstration and the forthcoming rulemaking and are very confident in our plan of action but, until these items are final and approved by EPA in written form, there is still a small

chance that our plan could be disapproved or delayed. Facility owners should take this into consideration when determining the right time to decommission.

5. Do you currently have an open construction permit or an operating permit that expires prior to March 15, 2013?

Contact us! If you want to decommission on or soon after March 15, 2013, and your facility is currently undergoing construction that will be complete prior to that date, will likely use some discretion in allowing your facility to delay testing for the current construction project so that you can do it in conjunction with decommissioning testing. Likewise, if your operating permit expires prior to March 15, 2013, you may be able to delay the renewal until decommissioning is complete. For this to be allowed you need to have prior approval from the department so don't forget to contact us prior to starting any work.

6. We will be using a checklist to ensure proper procedures are followed during decommissioning.

The department drafted a checklist for use during decommissioning. It is very similar to the PEI/RP300-09 decommissioning checklist but more specific to the current program in the St. Louis area. For example, it has items such as applying for the appropriate permits on it. The items on the checklist need to be completed and the document will need to be signed by both the contractor and responsible agent for the facility prior to the start of the final testing. The checklist is located at:

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/vaporrecovery/stageidecomchecklist.pdf>

7. Those who have submitted their construction permit applications early may start receiving permits as early as next week.

Remember, even though you have the permit, it does not authorize you to begin construction until March 15, 2013.

8. Be prepared to answer questions from your customers.

You will likely have customers inquiring about the removal of your Stage II equipment. Prepare your facility staff for these types of questions. Consider keeping a copy of your construction permit or new operating permit handy to show that the department authorized these changes.

9. Don't forget about the Stakeholder meeting on March 22, 2013!

The meeting will take place on March 22, 2013 from 10 a.m. to noon at:

St. Louis County Health Department, 6121 N. Hanley Road, Room 1048,

Berkeley, MO 63134.

While we will discuss some of the technical aspects of the decommissioning process and answer remaining questions the primary focus of the meeting will be on the concurrent rule changes for 10-CSR 10-5.220 "*Control of Petroleum Liquid Storage, Loading and Transfer.*" We will provide an agenda and more information closer to the meeting.

10. Consider construction permitting requirements when deciding whether or not to cap the vapor lines at the tank.

Currently, Vapor Recovery Construction permits are required for any modifications that require breaking concrete in an area that may affect the vapor lines; and modifications that may affect the vapor lines themselves. This includes work that takes place at the dispensers and at the tank tops. If the vapor lines remain connected to the tanks they will still be considered part of the vapor recovery system and therefore any work that takes place in the vicinity of those lines will still require a construction permit. If the vapor lines are capped off at the tank they will no longer be a part of the system and the only time you will need to have a construction permit will be when you are doing construction work on or over the tanks themselves.

11. Remember, after decommissioning, even though we won't be looking at your hanging hardware and dispensers, others will be.

After your facility has completed the decommissioning process and received the new operating permit, the Air Pollution Control Program will only be inspecting the Stage I vapor recovery equipment. We will no longer have requirements for the types of dispensers, hoses, nozzles etc. that you use. Keep in mind though that there are many other regulatory entities that may have additional requirements that will still apply, for example, Department of Agriculture, State Fire Marshall and local entities. In addition, your customers will be looking. Since local customers are so used to associating the boot on the nozzle with gasoline, there is potential for misfueling to occur. While fuels other than gasoline are typically clearly identified through multiple means, including differently colored nozzles it may take a period of readjustment for the general public to get used to looking for something other than the boot. Consider different ways you may be able to avoid confusion for the customer at the dispenser.

12. Make sure you have your Construction Permit before you begin work.

As a contractor or facility owner, you are responsible for ensuring the proper permit is obtained prior to conducting vapor recovery work. Even if you know the application was submitted, make sure you have a paper copy of the permit on site before proceeding with decommissioning work.

13. Don't forget to complete the checklist during the process.

We provided links to the official decommissioning checklist earlier this week but here are the links again, just in case you missed it. Items #1 through #11 must be completed and signed off on prior to the start of the final leak-decay test.

You can access the form through the widespread use page at:

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/vaporrecovery/epawidespreaduserule.htm>

Or the department forms page at:

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-2190-f.pdf>

14. Schedule your post-construction Operating Permit testing as quickly as you can.

Regulation requires that testing occur within 30 days of completion of construction activities. Facilities should make every effort to comply with this requirement. At a minimum, the post-construction testing should be scheduled within this timeframe. Make sure to work closely with your testing contractor throughout the process to minimize delays.

15. You must cap the underground vapor lines for your facility to be decommissioned

PEI guidance (14.6.6), the department approved checklist (7) and our decommissioning policy require, at a minimum, isolation of the underground vapor piping at the dispenser. Simply changing your nozzle and getting rid of the 'boot' does not mean the facility is decommissioned. Such action would likely result in enforcement by the department. This approach could also cause problems with the operation of the system.

16. You must remove all Stage II hanging hardware to complete the decommissioning process

In turn, while the Air Program will no longer be regulating the hanging hardware or dispensers used after a station has been fully decommissioned, we do still regulate it until the facility has received a new operating permit after decommissioning. PEI guidance (14.6.9), the department approved checklist (10) and our decommissioning policy require replacement of all Stage II hanging hardware with conventional. While I know that this is the piece most of you are eager to get rid of, we have had some questions on using up current stock of hoses, nozzles etc. If you really want to use these items up then you may want to consider holding off on decommissioning until you are ready to do it all at once.

17. Send the Air Pollution Control Program any questions, thoughts or concerns!