

Ohio EPA

Division of Air Pollution Control

Engineering Guide #14

Question:

Can stack tests and associated visible particulate emission readings (taken during those tests), which were performed prior to the effective date (June 18, 1980) of the "equivalent visible particulate emission limitation" provisions in OAC rule 3745-17-07, be used to establish such a limitation for an emissions unit? Also, should facilities with emissions units which have currently effective PTO's with Special Terms and Conditions containing alternate visible particulate emission limitations (extensions to the old 3-minute rule up to 60 percent opacity) be required to test or retest (1) immediately after the effective date of revised OAC rule 3745-17-07, (2) at renewal of the PTO's, or (3) never? (These questions were submitted by Dennis Bush of the Northeast District Office on May 15, 1980 and by Fred Klingelhafer of the Southeast District Office on May 19, 1980.)

Answer:

In general, stack tests and any corresponding visible particulate emission readings which were performed prior to the effective date of the "equivalent visible particulate emission limitation" (EVEL) provisions in revised OAC rule 3745-17-07, may not be used to establish such a limitation. The exception to this general statement would be a situation where an entity previously requested the Director to determine the average opacity of the emissions from an emissions unit during any performance test(s) conducted pursuant to test procedures equivalent to those now specified in paragraph (B) of rule 3745-17-03 and submitted such request in writing along with the test specifications and procedures at least thirty days prior to the proposed test date.

In order to establish an EVEL for any emissions unit, visible particulate emission readings should be performed during each sampling run, for a minimum of 60 consecutive minutes per run. (See Engineering Guide #13 for instructions on how to determine an EVEL.) Therefore, at a minimum, three sets of visible particulate emission readings should be performed during any performance test. Those entities that potentially qualify for an exception to the above general statement will have to be evaluated on a

case-by-case basis to determine if an adequate number of visible particulate emission readings were taken during the previous performance test. Also, in such cases the performance test(s) and the results of such test(s) must be acceptable to the Ohio EPA.

Any confusion as to whether or not previous stack tests and corresponding visible particulate emission data may be used for purposes of establishing an EVEL may be clarified by reference to paragraph (C)(1) of OAC rule 3745-17-07. This paragraph reads as follows:

"For the purpose of establishing an equivalent visible particulate emission limitation for stack emissions subject to a mass-based, particulate emission limitation, any owner or operator of an air contaminant source which is subject to the requirements of paragraph (A) (1) of this rule may request the director to determine the average opacity of the emissions from said source during any performance test(s) conducted pursuant to paragraph (B) of rule 3745-17-03 of the Administrative Code. Any such request shall be made in writing at the time the test specifications and procedures are submitted to the director pursuant to paragraph (B) (6) of rule 3745-17-03 of the Administrative Code." (emphasis added)

The language in this paragraph indicates that an entity that desires an EVEL for an emissions unit must request the Director to determine the average opacity during a performance test and submit such request to the Director in writing along with the proposed test specifications and procedures. Paragraph (B) (6) of OAC rule 3745-17-03 indicates at what time such "test specifications" must be submitted. This paragraph reads as follows:

The director may refuse to accept the results of emission tests conducted pursuant to paragraphs (B)(7), (B)(10) of this rule which are not conducted with prior review and approval of the test specifications by the director. Test specifications must be submitted for this purpose at least thirty days before the proposed test date. The director will advise an entity of any deficiencies in the proposed test specifications as expeditiously as practicable so as to minimize any disruption of the proposed testing schedule." (emphasis added)

It is clear from this language that the request to determine an average opacity during a performance test, for the eventual purpose of establishing an EVEL, must be made in writing at the time the "test specifications and procedures" are submitted, viz., at least thirty days before the proposed test date.

Therefore, the Ohio EPA will not accept any previous stack test(s) and corresponding visible particulate emission readings taken for the purpose of establishing an EVEL unless (1) the entity had previously requested that an average opacity be determined during any performance test(s), (2) such request was submitted in writing at the time the test specifications and procedures were submitted, (3) such request, test specifications, and procedures were submitted at least thirty days before the proposed test date, (4) the performance test(s) and results were found to be acceptable by the Ohio EPA and (5) an adequate number of visible particulate emission readings were performed during the performance test(s). If the number of visible particulate emission readings taken during the performance test(s) is not sufficient to meet the criteria specified in Engineering Guide #13, such situations will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; however, we do not believe that there will be many instances where the above evaluation will be necessary. In most instances, the previous data will not be acceptable for purposes of establishing an EVEL due to an insufficient number of visible emission readings.

With respect to the second question, facilities with emissions units that have currently effective PTO's with Special Terms and Conditions (STC's) containing alternate visible emission limitations based on the previously effective rule should be required to comply with revised OAC rule 3745-17-07 (effective June 18, 1980) as soon as possible, but certainly no later than the expiration date of the PTO. All of these facilities should be notified of the new requirements for establishing an EVEL as soon as possible.

Once an EVEL is determined for a emissions unit which has an effective PTO with STC's containing alternate visible particulate emission limitations based on the old version of OAC rule 3745-17-07, the STC's may be modified immediately through the PTO modification procedure or during the PTO renewal period.

TK/JO

June 27, 1980
(Revised December 23, 1994; reviewed and
updated with minor revisions on March 23, 2007)