

PWGC Winter Newsletter

Hospital Edition

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Happy Holidays! PWGC's hospital newsletters are designed to assist Facilities Engineering and other departments within the hospitals to stay updated on ever changing environmental rules, regulations, and other pertinent issues related to the healthcare industry.

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Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Area Sources- 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart JJJJJJ

On March 21, 2011 the EPA promulgated national air toxics standards for major source and area source industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and commercial and industrial solid waste incineration (CISWI) rule in March of 2011. A major source is a facility that emits, or has the potential to emit (in the absence of controls), at least 10 tons per year (TPY) of individual hazardous air pollutants (HAP) or 25 TPY of combined HAP. If not a major facility, the facility is considered an area source (any source that is not a major source). On December 2, 2011 EPA proposed reconsiderations for rules to reduce emissions of air pollutants from existing and new boilers and major and area source facilities, and from Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators (CISWI).

Reconsiderations do not involve gas fired boilers (*per 40 CFR 63.11237 and 63.11195(e) Gas-fired boiler includes any boiler that burns gaseous fuels not combined with any solid fuels, burns liquid fuel only during periods of gas curtailment, gas supply emergencies, or periodic testing on liquid fuel. Periodic testing of liquid fuel shall not exceed a combined total of 48 hours during any calendar year*) which remain exempt from the rule. Other boilers not affected by this rule are: (1) hot water heaters (<120 U.S. gallons, <160 psig, and <210°F (90°C)), (2) waste heat boilers, (3) boilers used as control devices for other NESHAP standards, (4) boilers subject to other NESHAP standards, Section 129 standards, or hazardous waste boilers, and (6) research and development boilers. The area source rule covers approximately 187,000 boilers located at 92,000 area source facilities. Of the 187,000 covered units, approximately 183,300 (98%) need only to conduct periodic tune-ups, and some also need to perform an energy audit. Most healthcare facilities fall into this category. Approximately seven thousand coal-burning units (2%) are required to meet emission limits. The March 2011 final area source rule is summarized below.

AREA SOURCES: New and Existing Small boilers less 10 MMBtu/hr ("small boilers") that operate on coal, biomass or oil must perform a tune-up every other year. Existing boilers which are considered to have commenced construction or reconstruction of the boiler on or before June 4, 2010 and are greater than 10 mmBtu/hr ("large boilers") and operate on oil or biomass must be perform a one-time energy assessment (comply by March 21, 2014) and a tune up every other year (comply by March 21, 2012). If operating on coal emission limits for mercury (Hg) and carbon monoxide (CO) a one-time energy assessment performed. New boilers are considered to have commenced construction/ reconstruction or switched from natural gas fuel to solid fossil fuel, biomass or liquid fuel after June 4, 2010 and are greater than 10 mmBtu/hr. If these boilers operate on coal they must meet emission limits for Hg, CO and particulates (PM). If operating on biomass or oil emission limits must be met for PM and a tune up every year performed. Initial notification to the EPA was due September 17, 2011.

EPA is proposing the following December 2, 2011 amendments to the final rule based on additional data Provided after the agency issued final standards:

1. EPA is proposing to create additional subcategories and require initial compliance tune-ups after two years instead after the first year.
2. EPA is proposing to require seasonal operators to conduct tune-ups every five years after the initial tune-up, instead of every other year. These units are operated less frequently and have less of a need to conduct tune-ups than boilers that are operated year-round
3. The Agency proposes to provide clarification on applicability and implementation issues raised by stakeholders subject to the rule.

PWGC will provide updates and new future rule changes.

PWGC 
Strategic Environmental Engineering Solutions



Recycling Biowaste

Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in the state of Oregon has a new technology to safely dispose of more than 90 percent of its infectious medical waste on-site. They recently installed a Red Bag Solutions Technology that sterilizes and pulverizes infectious medical waste from red bio-hazardous bags and sharps containers to confetti-like material that is safe to recycle or dispose of with municipal solid waste (SSM Technology). Until recently the hospital as most hospitals across the nation ship the biohazard waste over 100 miles for safe and proper disposal.

As stated on the Red Bag Solutions' website, facilities using the technology enjoy the following benefits: (1) significantly lower disposal costs and control of future costs; (2) reduced liability - less handling, less transport, less reliance on third party disposal options; (3) reduced administration and reporting tasks associated with off-site disposal by eliminating medical waste tracking; and (4) waste minimization by dissolving degradables, sterilizing infectious materials and liquids, and reducing the volume of solid waste by 90% or more. Waste non-infectious, non-hazardous, and non-recognizable, once processed through the SSM, infectious medical waste can be discarded as ordinary municipal trash.

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Purchasing Power



Hospitals and healthcare facilities are coming together to organize a purchasing power to push manufacturers of medical products to be more environmentally friendly and be made with safer chemicals. The Washington Post reports "Five large groups that buy \$130 billion of these products every year on behalf of hospitals and other health-care facilities have adopted a standard set of questions they want vendors to answer." The questions are intended to encourage manufacturers to produce "greener and safer products for workers, patients and the environment," said Gina Pugliese, Vice President of the Premier health-care alliance.

Kaiser Permanente uses Sustainability Scorecards requiring suppliers to provide environmental data for medical equipment and products used in Kaiser's hospitals, medical offices and other facilities. The scorecard outlines important environmental criteria and asks about a company's environmental commitment. Kaiser welcomes others to use this scorecard in their purchasing processes and may be found at <http://practicegreenhealth.org>. A result of the scorecards, Kaiser is involved in the process of switching from one type of surgical tool used for minimally invasive surgery to one that does not require a hydrogen peroxide-based chemical for sterilization. Kaiser is also replacing vinyl flooring products with rubber and linoleum to avoid using polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which can release dioxin and other harmful chemicals.

Sustainable Food Systems



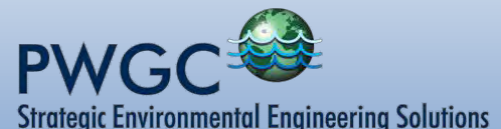
Food is always a great topic to bring up around the holidays! Sustainable food systems are being put into practice in many hospitals as they are realizing unhealthy and unsustainable food systems are negatively impacting human health. Hospitals are beginning to make a change in the ways in which they procure, offer, prepare and dispose of food. Creation of farmer's markets organic gardens, increased purchasing of locally grown seasonal and organic produce, efforts to purchase milk and dairy products free of hormones and programs to compost a large percentage of food waste are just a few of the strategies being integrated at major hospitals and health systems nationwide.

As stated in our Fall newsletter, many healthcare facilities are making food a priority to achieve more sustainable food practice goals. Practice Greenhealth has partnered with Health Care Without Harm and the Food Matters Project to provide a range of tools and resources, sample policies and case studies designed specifically for the healthcare sector.

Visit http://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/sustainable-food#_edn3 for more information on Healthcare without Harm's Healthy Food Systems.



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