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Guidance Document for Qualitative Ambient Impact Screening Analyses

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (the Department) has developed this guidance document to outline when and how to submit a qualitative ambient impact screening analysis (QAISA) as a means to assure protection of ambient air quality standards (AAQS).

Applicability

The purpose of the QAISA is to demonstrate, to the Department's satisfaction, reasonable assurance that the proposed source will not cause or contribute to AAQS violations. Prior to issuing an air emission license pursuant to *Major and Minor Source Air Emission License Regulation*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 115, the Department must find that the facility emissions, either alone or in conjunction with other sources, will not cause or contribute to violations of AAQS. Sources with potential emissions at or above the levels listed in 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 115, § 7(B)(3) must submit an ambient air quality impact analysis. Sources with potential emissions below those levels may be required to submit either an ambient air quality impact analysis or a QAISA. Additionally, specific regulations may allow for a QAISA in lieu of other requirements. For example, a QAISA may be used to justify alternatives to emission limitations or stack height requirements found in *Stationary Generators*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 169.

Submittal Process

A QAISA is submitted as part of the application for a new or amended air emission license. The analysis should consider and provide information on factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- Pollutant emission rates;
- Stack parameters (location, height, diameter, presence of rain cap);
- Stack orientation (vertical or horizontal)
- Exhaust velocity and temperature;
- Dimensions of nearby structures, including a scaled plot plan of these structures;
- Proximity of sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, nursing homes, air intakes for occupied areas);
- Local terrain features; and
- Proposed operational limits (e.g., limits on hours of operation).

Other supplementary information may be required to support the analysis. The QAISA must include the basis of the applicant's justification and conclusions as to why the proposed project is not expected to cause or contribute to violations of AAQS.

Department's Decision

After review of the QAISA submitted by the applicant, the Department will make a finding as to whether the analysis is sufficient to assure protection of AAQS. In its review, the Department will consider the information provided by the applicant in the QAISA as well as any other relevant



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information such as other nearby facilities. Agreement with the applicant's conclusion is not guaranteed and is solely at the discretion of the Department and based on the Department's professional experience with similar sources. If the Department is unable to make a finding that the analysis is sufficient to assure protection of AAQS, the applicant retains the option to conduct an ambient air quality impact analysis pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 115, § 7 to demonstrate compliance with all applicable AAQS.

[Additional Resources](#)

A copy of this document is available electronically at the following Maine DEP website:

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/air/publications/index.html>

For more information or assistance, please contact a Maine DEP Air Licensing staff member or email us at DEP-Air-Licensing-Help@maine.gov.