Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed General Minor Permit Rule

Docket # 58-0101-2601

General Overview

When will this rule go into effect if the proposed rule is approved?

If approved, this rule would go into effect **July 1, 2027.**

What is a General Minor Permit?

A General Minor Permit is a source category-specific air quality permit issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). It is designed for stationary sources that share similar operations, emissions, and regulatory requirements within a defined source category. It would provide a streamlined permitting pathway compared to an individual permit to construct. (See Section 007.04 and Section 230.)

Why is DEQ creating General Minor Permits?

General Minor Permits would allow DEQ to develop a single permit that can apply to multiple similar sources, reducing administrative burden for both the agency and applicants. Sources in the same category with comparable operations and applicable requirements can use the same permit rather than each going through a full individual permit process.

Where can I find General Minor Permits and application materials?

Once finalized, all General Minor Permits, statements of basis, and application materials will be posted on the DEQ website. This includes any source category-specific permit conditions, qualifying criteria, and instructions for how to apply. (See Sections 230 and 232)

Eligibility

Who is eligible for a General Minor Permit?

Owners or operators of new or existing stationary sources may be eligible for a General Minor Permit if their source falls within a source category for which DEQ has developed a General Minor Permit, and the source meets all qualifying criteria established for that category. Potential categories could include concrete batch plants, hot mix asphalt plants, and automotive coating operations. (See Section 232.01)

Who is NOT eligible for a General Minor Permit?

The following sources would not eligible for a General Minor Permit:

- Sources that qualify as a “major facility” under Section 008 of the Idaho air quality rules; or
- Sources that qualify as a “major stationary source” as defined under 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1) or 40 CFR 52.21(b); or
- Sources located within a designated nonattainment area. (See Sections 230.02 and 230.03)

Does having a General Minor Permit exempt a source from other compliance obligations?

No. Receiving a General Minor Permit does not relieve an owner or operator of the responsibility to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes, rules, and regulations. (See Section 108)

The Application Process

How do I apply for coverage under a General Minor Permit?

Owners or operators of qualifying sources would apply using the application materials posted on the DEQ website for the applicable source category. Completed applications would be submitted to DEQ along with the required permit fee. (See Section 232.01)

How long does it take to receive coverage under a General Minor Permit after applying?

DEQ would notify the applicant of approval or denial of coverage under an established General Minor Permit within fifteen (15) days of receiving a complete application and the required fee. (See Section 232.03)

What fees are required?

Applicants will be required to submit General Minor Permit fees as established in IDAPA 58.01.01. Please see the proposed air permitting fee rule under Docket No. 58-0101-2602. Information on how to make fee payments will be available on the DEQ website.

Is there a public notice or comment period when my individual application is approved?

No. Public notice and comment requirements would apply when DEQ develops or modifies a General Minor Permit for a source category, not when an individual source applies to be covered under an existing General Minor Permit. DEQ will maintain a publicly available record of all sources issued a General Minor Permit. (See Section 232.04)

How General Minor Permits Are Developed

How does DEQ develop a new General Minor Permit for a source category?

DEQ will develop a General Minor Permit through preparation of a proposed permit, statement of basis, and supporting materials. This will be followed by a thirty (30) day public comment period. After considering all comments, and within fifteen (15) days of the close of the comment period (unless additional time is needed), DEQ will finalize and post the permit, statement of basis, response to comments, and application on its website. (See Section 231)

What permit conditions will a General Minor Permit include?

Each General Minor Permit will be required to meet all applicable permitting requirements under Section 203, and DEQ will establish reasonable permit conditions in accordance with Section 211. Conditions will be unique to the specific source category and its operations, emissions, and regulatory requirements.

Can I request that DEQ create a General Minor Permit for a new source category?

Yes. Any person may submit a written request to DEQ asking that it consider developing a General Minor Permit for a new source category. DEQ retains discretion to decide if the need warrants the work to act on such a request. At a minimum, the request must include:

- A justification for why a new General Minor Permit category should be developed; and
- The approximate number of sources that would be eligible. (See Section 231.03)

Relationship to Other Permits

How does a General Minor Permit relate to a Permit to Construct?

A General Minor Permit would serve as an alternative pathway to an individual Permit to Construct for qualifying source categories. A source that obtains a General Minor Permit in accordance with Sections 230 through 232 will satisfy the Permit to Construct requirement that would otherwise apply under Section 201.

How does a General Minor Permit differ from a Permit by Rule?

A General Minor Permit is a source category-specific construction/operating permit issued under Sections 230 through 232. A Permit by Rule allows specific source categories to operate under pre-established permit conditions incorporated into the Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho through a registration process instead of an individual permit application. DEQ currently has Permit by Rule options established for dairies (Section 763) and nonmetallic mineral processing plants (rock crushers) (Section 795). Each pathway has different eligibility criteria and requirements.

What is the difference between the proposed General Minor Permit and the current General Permit application forms listed on DEQ's website?

DEQ currently has application forms on the air quality permitting website for a "general permit" for concrete batch plants, asphalt plants, and automotive coating operations. The general permits currently referenced on DEQ's website consist of templates that DEQ has created that can help the source and DEQ staff streamline the standard permit to construct issuance process for qualifying sources. The existing general permit templates still must follow the standard permit to construct issuance process under Section 209.01, including an opportunity for public comment on each permit application, 30 days to determine whether the application is complete, 60 days to prepare the permit, and may require source specific air dispersion modeling. Under the proposed General Minor Permit process, the permit development, air dispersion modeling (if needed), and public comment will be conducted for a source category (under defined parameters) prior to the application forms being made available for a general minor permit.