



# Cumulative Levels and Effects

Public Meeting - June 29, 2010

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## Background

Minnesota Statute 116.07, subd. 4a authorizes the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to issue air permits. This statute was revised in 2008.

Now, when a permit is issued for a project located in the area shown in green (Figure 1), the MPCA must analyze and consider cumulative levels and effects of past and current pollution.

The purpose of this meeting is to share a draft process for conducting the cumulative levels and effects analysis, as well as gather community input.

## Who Needs an Air Emissions Permit?

A facility must get an air permit if a proposed project has the potential to emit one or more air pollutants above the thresholds in Minnesota Rules.

A facility must show that it can meet all applicable state and federal requirements before the MPCA may issue a permit.

## What Is a Cumulative Levels and Effects Analysis?

A cumulative levels and effects analysis starts with a risk analysis based on the air emissions from a proposed project. The air pollutants identified through the risk analysis are then evaluated with existing information about past and current pollution in the area. The analysis uses available community and environmental data to put the effects of the proposed project in context with the area that may be impacted.



Figure 1

## How Is the Cumulative Analysis Used in Air Permit Decisions?

The MPCA bases its decision to issue an air permit on several factors. A project must meet all applicable state and federal rules. For proposed projects located in the area shown above, a cumulative levels and effects analysis is required. As shown in the table below (Figure 2), usually only larger projects require risk assessments or cumulative-type analyses.

In the area described by the statute, additional analyses are needed as part of the air permit application. This means more information will be identified, reviewed and considered as part of the MPCA's decision on whether to issue an air permit.

Figure 2

Standard Air Permit Process	Air Permit Process for Statute Area
Pollutant modeling and risk analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For large projects, or case by case</li> </ul>	Pollutant modeling and risk analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required for <i>all</i> permit decisions</li> </ul>
Cumulative impacts analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For environmental review, or case by case</li> <li>• Includes air exposures only</li> </ul>	Cumulative levels and effects analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <i>all</i> permit decisions</li> <li>• Includes <i>all sources</i> of pollution (factories, traffic, spill sites, etc.)</li> <li>• Includes all media exposures: air, water, soil</li> </ul>
Public Informational Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If requested, or case by case</li> </ul>	Public Informational Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required</li> </ul>

## How Can the Public Participate?

The MPCA continues to update the cumulative levels and effects analysis process as new information becomes available. If you know of additional sources of information that should be considered in the process, please let us know.

For specific permitting projects located in the statute area, public informational meetings will be part of the permit process. A public meeting will be held at the beginning of a project, when all permit application materials are received by MPCA. If the MPCA makes the determination to issue the permit, a second public meeting would be held during the public notice period.

## Contact Information

If you have questions about cumulative levels and effects or this fact sheet, please contact:

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