



# Managing Recyclable Fuel Wastes

Waste/Hazardous Waste 4.19 #, July 2003

*When a generator arranges for recyclable fuel to be processed by an approved recycler, the generator is exempt from many of the generator and transportation requirements of the Minnesota Rules. This fact sheet explains the requirements necessary to use this exemption.*

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## Environmental Concerns

Recyclable fuel is generally hazardous because it contains benzene (D018). It may have a flash point below 140°F making it hazardous because it displays the characteristic of ignitability. Recyclable fuel may also be hazardous due to additives and/or contaminants. If managed incorrectly, recyclable fuel could harm human health and the environment.

## What is “recyclable fuel”?

Recyclable fuel is defined in the hazardous waste rules as “any petroleum fuel which is no longer fit for use and which requires reclamation to be used.” Many different types of businesses may produce recyclable fuel. Examples of recyclable fuel include:

- a tank of gasoline contaminated with water at a service station;
- a fuel tank that must be drained of fuel, water, rust and scale before being scrapped;
- a storage tank with ethanol/gasoline that has undergone phase separation; and
- a holding pond at an airport containing spilled aviation fuel.

Recyclable fuel does **not** include wastes that:

- were not a fuel, such as solvents, paints and sorbents;
- are not petroleum-based, such as soil, sludge or debris;
- are not recycled, such as wastewater, soil or debris;
- are not hazardous, such as heating oil that is burned for energy or fuel;

- are regulated under different rules, such as used oil or off-specification fuel that can be burned without reclamation.
- are stored, such as old gasoline drained from boats, autos or lawn mowers.

## Management Options

Wastes that contain petroleum fuels are classified as hazardous by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Generators of petroleum fuel wastes must manage their wastes by following either:

1. all the requirements of Minnesota’s hazardous waste rules; or
2. the requirements of an exemption provided in Minn. Rules pt. 7045.0125, subp. 4, item N, as explained in this fact sheet.

## Exemptions for Recyclable Fuel

When a generator arranges for recyclable fuel to be processed by an approved recycler, the generator is exempt from many of the generator and transportation requirements of the Minnesota Rules. Qualified generators do **not** need to:

- get an ID number;
- apply for a hazardous waste generator license;
- pay generator fees; or
- use a licensed hazardous waste transporter to ship the waste.

Some recyclable fuel generators may prefer not to use the exemption and will manage their waste as hazardous waste. For example, a company that is a licensed hazardous waste generator for other waste



streams may want to dispose of their recyclable fuel using a regular licensed hazardous waste transporter and a hazardous waste manifest. If you wish to use the exemption, you must meet the following generator requirements.

### Generator Requirements

To qualify for the exemption, generators must:

- determine whether the waste is a recyclable fuel;
- make arrangements with a fuel recycling facility that is registered with the MPCA or a legitimate out-of-state hazardous waste recycling facility. The recycling facility must be able to place the fuel into the recycling process within 24 hours of delivery;
- contact the fuel recycling facility in advance to determine their requirements for the acceptance of waste (laboratory data, a sample for analysis, delivery appointment, etc.);
- ensure that the recyclable fuel is immediately removed by the transporter. If the fuel is in a tank, the fuel must be removed from the site when it is pumped out. If the fuel is the result of contamination of a product in containers or barrels, it must be removed as soon as possible after it is discovered to be contaminated. If the fuel is generated from a spill, it must be removed from the site as quickly as it is cleaned up;
- ensure that the transporter meets Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) requirements. The transporter does not need to be licensed to haul hazardous waste, but must meet all MnDOT requirements appropriate to the type and volume of waste being handled (This may include being registered as a hazardous materials carrier, the vehicle having correct placards, and drivers having a hazardous materials endorsement on their license.);
- ensure that the transporter leaves a signed, dated copy of a shipping paper for the recyclable fuel; and
- ensure that the transporter will deliver the fuel within five (5) days, and will not transfer or off-load the fuel before delivery to the recycling facility.

**Note:** As with all hazardous waste, if the fuel is spilled or illegally disposed of, the generator is liable for the cleanup of the waste. The MPCA recommends that the generator

obtain a signed, dated copy of a shipping paper from the transporter and also advises that the generator follow up with the recycling facility to ensure the fuel was delivered within five days of the shipping date.

### More Information

Your metropolitan county and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have staff available to answer waste management questions. For more information, contact your metropolitan county hazardous waste office or the MPCA office closest to your county.

#### Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

Anoka County .....	(763)422-7093
Carver County .....	(952)361-1800
Dakota County .....	(952)891-7020
Hennepin County .....	(612)348-8100
Ramsey County .....	(651)773-4466
Scott County .....	(952)496-8177
Washington County .....	(651)430-6655

#### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free .....	(800)657-3864
Brainerd .....	(218)828-2492
Detroit Lakes .....	(218)847-1519
Duluth .....	(218)723-4660
Marshall .....	(507)537-7146
Rochester .....	(507)285-7343
St. Paul .....	(651)297-2274
Willmar .....	(320)214-3786
List of recycling facilities ....	(651)296-3552

**Web Site** ..... <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>

#### Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Freight and Commercial	
Vehicle Operations .....	(651)405-6060
Toll free .....	(888)4-SAFETY