

Facts about shutdowns and breakdowns

Minnesota's Notifications of Deviations, Shutdowns and Breakdowns rule (Minn. R. 7019.1000) requires the owner or operator of an emission facility to notify the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) of shutdowns or breakdowns that cause any increase in emissions. However, notification is not required if 1) operation of shutdown or malfunctioning air pollution control equipment is not required, or 2) process or control equipment is operated in compliance with applicable alternative operating conditions, or 3) emissions are monitored continuously and directly and monitoring shows no exceedance of an applicable limit for any regulated pollutant.

The purpose of this rule is so that the MPCA is aware and can respond to citizen complaints about air emissions, and so that MPCA can determine if there is an unreasonable frequency of breakdown or shutdown at a facility.

These rules apply to all facilities with air emissions, regardless of whether or not they are required to have an air emission permit.

Nothing in this rule allows violation of any applicable requirements, permit condition, compliance document or endangerment of health or the environment

To notify the MPCA, follow the procedures listed in Table 1. All shutdown and breakdown notifications must be submitted online at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/air-emissions-shutdown-breakdown-form>.

The facility may also be required to maintain records of any start-up, shutdown, breakdown or malfunction that may occur in the operation of the facility, including those involving air pollution control equipment

During a shutdown or breakdown, companies are required to prevent or reduce adverse impacts on air quality. The MPCA expects companies to make feasible and practical changes in plant operations to reduce emissions of air contaminants. The MPCA can also require these changes.

Shutdown or breakdown events that lead to noncompliance with any Air Emissions Permit conditions must be reported on the Semi-Annual Deviations Report (DRF-2).

Do I always have to notify the MPCA of a shutdown or breakdown?

No. Notifications are **not required** for breakdowns and shutdowns **if**:

1. Breakdowns/shutdowns do not cause any increase in emission of a regulated air pollutant.
2. An applicable requirement or compliance document does not require operation of the control equipment and does not require the control equipment to meet emission limits or opacity limits. [For example, a registration permit Option D holder that has control equipment but is not receiving credit for reduced emissions from the control equipment operation].
3. An applicable requirement or compliance document specifies alternative minimum operating conditions for the process or control equipment that are still complied with despite the breakdown/shutdown [For example, a facility with an electrostatic precipitator. The permit requires operation of the electrostatic precipitator with at least the number of fields that were operating during the most recent particulate matter performance test that demonstrated compliance. After the permit was issued, the facility tested and demonstrated compliance with its particulate emission limit with six out of ten fields operating. The permittee would only need to notify the MPCA of a shutdown or breakdown under this rule if the number of fields in operation was less than six.]

4. The facility directly and continuously monitors the emissions with a continuous emissions monitor or similar direct monitoring device that demonstrates emissions do not exceed the applicable limit of any regulated pollutant during the breakdown/shutdown [For example, a facility burns coal and uses a scrubber to control SO₂ emissions. If the scrubber malfunctions but the SO₂ monitor shows emissions are less than the SO₂ limit, notification is not required. Note that an opacity monitor is not be an acceptable indicator of particulate emissions since it does not directly monitor particulate emissions].

Table 1 -- Notification Procedures

TYPE OF NOTIFICATION	ACTION
Breakdown	Notify the commissioner within 24 hours of the breakdown of more than one hour duration of any control equipment or process equipment if the breakdown causes any increase in the emissions of any regulated air pollutant. At the time of notification or as soon thereafter, inform the commissioner of the cause of the breakdown and the estimated duration. Notify the commissioner when breakdown is over.
Shutdown	Notify the commissioner at least 24 hours in advance of a planned shutdown of any control equipment or process equipment if it would cause any increase in the emissions of any regulated air pollutant. If there is no advance knowledge of shutdown, notify the commissioner as soon as possible after the shutdown.

Table 2 -- Required Information

Shutdown and Breakdown Notifications must contain the following information:

- Company and facility name and location.
- Your name, title and telephone number.
- Date and time of shutdown or breakdown.
- Equipment failure and reason.
- If applicable, type of continuous monitoring system or device, and source monitored.
- Potential environmental impacts.
- What steps are or will be taken to address the potential environmental impacts.
- Estimated duration of shutdown or breakdown.

If there is an emergency (human health or the environment are threatened), call the State Duty Officer at: (651) 649-5451 or (800) 422-0798

TTY users call: (800) 627-3529