

August 25, 2022

The Honorable Carrie Ruud
Chair, Senate Environment & Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
3233 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee
3207 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Josh Heintzeman
Lead, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
353 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Foug Hawj Ranking Minority
Member, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
2201 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Patricia Torres Ray Ranking Minority
Member, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
2225 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Minnesota's Trichloroethylene Ban Implementation

Dear Environment and Natural Resources Committee Chairs and Minority Leads:

This letter comprises an updated report on the implementation of Minn. Stat. § 116.385. In May 2020 the Legislature passed a partial ban on trichloroethylene (TCE), making Minnesota the first state in the nation to restrict most permitted uses of TCE. The ban became effective in June 2022. This letter summarizes the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) implementation of the ban and the status of TCE use in Minnesota.

Implementation

Soon after the enactment of the law, MPCA contacted all permitted facilities with reported TCE use between 2015 and 2020. Of those facilities, 39 were using TCE. The MPCA requested updated TCE emissions information and encouraged facilities to stop using TCE or seek a variance or exemption as outlined in the legislation. The MPCA also inspected all facilities with current TCE use.

Facilities could seek technical assistance through MPCA or the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program at the University of Minnesota to identify alternative chemicals or process changes that met their business needs. The legislation offered loans and a one-year extension to small businesses; no facilities pursued those options.

The MPCA used reported emissions from facilities to model the use of replacement chemicals and ensure that the new processes or chemicals meet health benchmarks established by the Minnesota Department of Health. Three facilities sought variances to continue research and development use of TCE. These facilities were also modeled to ensure that ongoing TCE use would not endanger human health or the environment. After modeling, MPCA created enforceable agreements with each facility to ensure future compliance with this legislation.

The MPCA put three preliminary variance determinations on public notice on June 30, 2022. No public comments were received on the proposed variances and final variances will be issued later in 2022. Based on information recently submitted by one of these facilities, the MPCA will need to allow for one more public notice. The MPCA expects this to occur within 45 days.

The MPCA also included the TCE ban language in the 2022 Air Quality Housekeeping Rule so that future air permits will automatically ban TCE use. That rule went into effect on May 2, 2022.

Facility Status

The table below includes a short summary of each facility analyzed as MPCA implemented the TCE ban. An interactive map of these facilities is available at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/tce-use-facilities-minnesota>.

Facility	TCE Use Status
3M - Cottage Grove - Corporate Incinerator	This facility shut down and is no longer using TCE.
3M - R & D Facility - Maplewood Bldg 201	Facility seeking variance from TCE rule, final variance expected in 2022.
Acrotech, Inc.	Ceased TCE use March 16, 2022.
Avtec Finishing Systems Inc.	Switched to n-Propyl Bromide August 2018.
Bodycote Thermal Processing	Ceased TCE use May 31, 2022.
Bongards Creameries - Perham	Switched to trans-Dichloroethylene aerosol contact cleaner as of July 2020.
Bongards Premium Cheese	Ceased TCE use July 2020.
CHS Mankato	Ceased TCE use December 2020.
Co-operative Plating	Switched to n-Propyl Bromide May 2019.
DeZURIK, Inc.	Ceased TCE use May 17, 2022.

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Energy Economics	Switched to aerosol mixture of Acetone, Naphtha, Propane & Butane January 2019.
Flint Hills - Pine Bend	Ceased TCE use in lab September 2020.
General Mills James Ford Bell Tech Ctr	Facility seeking variance from TCE rule, final variance expected in 2022.
Graco Minnesota Inc - Koch Center	Switched to aerosol mixture of Acetone, Heptane & Cyclohexyl-methane January 2019.
Greatbatch Ltd dba Greatbatch Medical (Integer)	Switched to Metalnox (TCE-Free IPA Solvent) as of December 2021.
Hiawatha Rubber Co	Ceased TCE use May 6, 2022.
Hibbing Taconite	Switched to bonding agent mixture of Ethyl Acetate, Heptane, Toluene & Acetone April 2019.
Honeywell Aerospace	Ceased TCE use May 16, 2022.
Kangas Enameling	Switched to Aqueous Solution with Sodium Phosphate July 2019.
KGM Contractors, Inc.	Ceased TCE use April 2021.
Lake Region Medical	Switched to Metalnox (TCE-Free IPA Solvent) December 2021.
Larsen's Manufacturing	Switched to trans-Dichloroethylene July 2020.
LCS Co	Switched to trans-Dichloroethylene April 2017.
Mack Engineering	Switched to trans-Dichloroethylene July 2019.
Marvin Windows	Switched to aerosol Zep45 Dual Force 2016.
McNielus Truck & Manufacturing	Ceased TCE use 2016.
Minneapolis Water Works - Fridley	Switched to aerosol mixture Chlor-Free September 2018.
Nico Products	Ceased Degreasing Operations June 2017 - Permit voided December 2020.
Resideo - Golden Valley (Honey Well Intl)	Ceased TCE use August 2021.
RTI Remmele Engineering Big Lake - Plant 40	Ceased TCE use March 2020.
Rubber Industries	Ceased TCE use May 31, 2022.
The Vomela Companies	Switched to SCIGRIP 4SC Low VOC Solvent Cement Acrylic Adhesive October 2020.
University of MN - Morris	No TCE use, misreported.
University of MN - Twin Cities	Facility seeking variance from TCE rule, final variance expected in 2022.
Viracon, Inc.	Switched to Isopropyl Alcohol March 2021.
Water Gremlin	Switched to trans-Dichloroethylene January 2019.
Westinghouse Fuel-Handling Equipment & Crane Mfg	No TCE use, misreported.
WW Blacktopping Inc.	Switched to GreenGuard aerosol July 2015.
Xcel Optical	Ceased TCE use September 2020.

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If you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact me at 651-757-2228 or todd.biewen@state.mn.us, or Maggie Wenger at 651-757-2007 or maggie.wenger@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Biewen

This document has been electronically signed.

Todd J. Biewen

Division Director

Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

TJB/MW:ct