



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Decommissioning & Removing Landfill Gas Extraction Wells
SOLID WASTE PERMITS SECTION, OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY

(317) 232-8603 • (800) 451-6027

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background:

- The New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (40 CFR 60, Subpart WWW, Section 40.753(b)(3)) require that design changes for landfill gas collection and control systems, such as the decommissioning or removal of gas extraction wells, be approved by the Administrator. The Administrator refers to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), which has delegated the authority for implementing these regulations to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Therefore, the design changes must be approved by IDEM.
(Note: This does not apply to passive gas wells, gas monitoring wells, wells that are monitoring probes outside the permitted waste boundary, or any other wells that are not subject to the NSPS.)

When is Approval Necessary?

- When removing or permanently decommissioning a landfill gas extraction well, the Solid Waste Permits Section in the Office of Land Quality must grant approval through an insignificant modification of the landfill's permit.
- The IDEM Office of Air Quality does not need to be notified, as this portion of the air regulations is overseen by the Office of Land Quality.
- Temporary decommissioning refers to a well that will be brought back on-line at some time in the future. This can occur due to construction or repair. It does not refer to the replacement of a well, or the permanent removal of a well. Temporary decommissioning does not require a permit modification. However, landfills may wish to send a letter notifying IDEM to ensure that they are fully in compliance with the NSPS, and that IDEM is aware of any operational concerns that may impact the landfill gas collection and control system.
- There is no fee for an insignificant permit modification.

How to Receive Approval

- To apply for an insignificant permit modification, the permittee must send a letter requesting the removal or decommissioning of the well(s) to the IDEM Office of Land Quality, Solid Waste Permits Section at:
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Solid Waste Permits
MC 65-45, IGCN 1101
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2254
- The application should include:
 - The name of the permittee and permit number.
 - The identification numbers of the well(s) that will be removed or decommissioned.
 - The intended date to begin removal or decommissioning of the wells.
 - The reason for removing or decommissioning the wells.
 - A description of any new wells to be constructed to replace the wells, including their identification numbers and a map showing their intended locations.
- The Solid Waste Permits Section has 30 days from the date that the insignificant permit modification application is received to issue a decision. If the decision is not issued within 30 days, the permittee may commence the activity. If the application is incomplete, it may be denied. In that event, the permittee could resubmit a complete application at any time.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.

- IDEM's Office of Land Quality is responsible for regulating the land disposal of waste.

Additional Information:

- For more information on landfill regulations, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov.
- For questions and concerns, feel free to call IDEM's Office of Land Quality, Solid Waste Permits Section at (317) 232-4473 or (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-4473.