New Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaner Rule Proposed

Who is affected by this initiative?

Every dry cleaning facility which uses perchloroethylene in the dry cleaning process.

What changes are proposed?

The Department is proposing amendments to N.J.A.C. 7:27-17 to reduce the amount of perchloroethylene entering the environment by restricting, and eventually eliminating, the use of perchloroethylene in the dry cleaning industry in New Jersey. Specifically,

- Dry cleaning systems located in a building with a residence such as an apartment building will not be allowed to use perchloroethylene after July 27, 2009.

- After January 1, 2010, all other dry cleaning facilities will be required to
  a. replace perchloroethylene systems classified as third generation dry cleaning systems with fourth generation dry cleaning systems, or
  b. install a vapor barrier

- Dry cleaning facilities will be required to install a fitting on the perchloroethylene storage tanks that will prevent spills during delivery of perchloroethylene, and which will return any vapors generated during the transfer back to the delivery vessel

- Dry cleaning facilities will be required to dispose of the perchloroethylene contaminated waste water generated during the dry cleaning process in a manner that does not release perchloroethylene to the outside environment

- Operators of existing and new perchloroethylene machines will be required to comply with Federal rules for perchloroethylene dry cleaning facilities including leak detection and other monitoring and reporting requirements

- Full elimination of the use of perchloroethylene from dry cleaners would occur by January 1, 2021.
What should I do?

If you own or operate a dry cleaning facility that uses perchloroethylene, you should review the proposed regulations. The proposal is scheduled to be published in the New Jersey Register dated December 17, 2007. A copy of the proposal is available from:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqm/curformp.htm

If you have comments after you’ve read the proposal, you may either submit written comments by February 15, 2008 to:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Alice Previte
ATTN: (DEP Docket No. 27-07-11/582)
Office of Legal Affairs
PO Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Or
Attend the public hearing(s) concerning the proposal on Friday, January 18, 2008, from 10:00 A.M. until end of comments at:
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
First Floor Public Hearing Room
401 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

Who should I contact with questions?

Air Quality Management 609-292-6710

Where can I get more information?

The following web sites can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:

A copy of the public notice for this proposal, including a public hearing announcement and instructions for submitting comments on the proposal may be obtained at:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqm/curformp.htm

A copy of the rule proposal may also be obtained at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqm/curformp.htm

Visit the following Web site for general information:

Contact NJDEP: http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl

To comment on this advisory:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to this initiative, please contact the number listed above.