



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Air Quality

Michael F. Easley, Governor

William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary
B. Keith Overcash, P.E., Director

March 31, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Supervisors
Section Chiefs
Thom Allen

FROM: Keith Overcash, P.E

SUBJECT: Portable Crusher Exemption from Permitting

The purpose of this memorandum is to address portable crushers that are used on a temporary basis at various sites to crush concrete, asphalt, and stone. These devices typically move from site to site with little notice and are generally at one location for only a few days to a few months. The crushers are of varying size and age, but are commonly subject to the requirements of NSPS Subpart 000. Under current rules, this applicability of the crusher to NSPS Subpart 000 requires that these portable units must be permitted. If not for the NSPS applicability, this type of crushing operation would otherwise be exempted from air permitting since it emits less than five tons of all air pollutants at any site it operates (note, since the crusher is often the only unit which would be permitted, there is no differentiation between source and facility). Due to the mobile nature of this industry, it is difficult for these facilities to submit an application, wait for a zoning determination, and obtain an air permit prior to moving on to a new location. This creates a compliance problem for them and for DAQ.

The use of the current worst case AP-42 emission factor for fines crushing without control (0.0315 lb TSP/ton) indicates that a facility can crush up to 300,000 tons and only emit 4.7 tons of total suspended particulate. These units are powered by diesel-fired generators and a calculation using the appropriate emission factor indicates that a diesel fuel usage of 17,000 gallons results in the emission of 5.0 tons of NO_x and 0.35 tons of TSP.

Therefore, due to the sporadic nature of the operation of these crushers and the relatively insignificant amounts of air emissions expected, it will be DAQ's policy to exempt from air permitting requirements any portable crusher provided it is on a site for less than twelve months, crushes less than 300,000 tons of material, and burns less than 17,000 gallons of fuel oil. Compliance with all applicable regulations will be handled as it is currently through complaint investigations and unannounced inspections by inspectors traveling to other sites. This exemption from permitting will not excuse the operator of any portable crusher from the requirement to comply with any other applicable rules (including NSPS, Subpart 000). Any time that DAQ has reason to inspect one of these portable operations, a determination should be made as to the compliance status of the unit under investigation for all applicable rules, especially NSPS, Subpart 000.

It is the division's intent to follow up this policy memorandum by proposing a "Permit by Rule" to address the operation of these facilities. This new rule will list all of the requirements these portable crushers are subject to, such as 2D .0510, .0516, .0521, .0524 (NSPS Subpart 000), .0535 and .0540, as well as the limitations under which one of these crushers can be operated without the requirement to obtain an air permit.

This policy is effective immediately. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Charles McEachern at the Raleigh Regional Office (919-571-4700).

BKO/lj

cc: Brock Nicholson
Charles McEachern
Edythe McKinney