

# PMK Group Environmental

## New Requirements for Emergency Generators

**O**n November, 7, 2005, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) adopted new rules and amendments regulating the "Control and Prohibition of Air Pollution Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)" under N.J.A.C. 7:27-19.

These rules and amendments represent a significant change in the existing permitting and recordkeeping procedures for combustion sources including Emergency Generators. In addition, the NJDEP is also requiring that the Air Quality Forecast be checked prior to performing any maintenance services or testing on emergency generators.

### Does my Emergency Generator need an Air Permit?

Currently, an emergency generator is required to have an air permit only if the gross heat input is 1,000,000 BTU/hr or greater. Emergency generators smaller than 1,000,000 BTU/hr are not required to have permits but, under the new rule, have additional recordkeeping requirements.

### Do I need to keep records on my Emergency Generator?

The amendments in N.J.A.C. 7:27-19.11 are applicable to facilities that have emergency generators with a power output of 37 kW or greater. These emergency generators are not big enough to require an air permit, but facilities are now required to monitor and keep records during testing and maintenance of these generators.

Specifically, the following recordkeeping requirements apply:

1. Monthly record of total operating time as it appears on the hour meter.
2. For each testing or maintenance operation:
  - a. reason for operation
  - b. record of date(s)
  - c. start up & shut down times
  - d. total operating time and operator name

3. Copy of voltage reduction notification, if an emergency generator is used for voltage reduction

4. All records are to be maintained on site for at least five years

### Check Air Quality Forecast before you test that Emergency Generator!

In accordance with the amendments in N.J.A.C. 7:27-19.2(d) emergency generators may not be allowed to operate for normal testing or maintenance operations, depending on New Jersey's Air Quality for that day.

New Jersey's Air Quality Forecast is based on the National Air Quality Index System. This system compares five major pollutant levels currently in the air to established health standards, and results in a rating (or grade), such as "good" or "unhealthy."

Restricting emergency generators from testing and maintenance operations on certain days is designed to ensure that New Jersey's air quality does not get worse on days with unhealthy air, and to help protect the public from the harmful effects of unhealthy air.

those at pump stations and well systems. In addition, a tracking system should be set up for each emergency generator that is 37 kW or larger. The specific recordkeeping information should include a minimum of the aforementioned requirements, as listed.

Before using the Emergency Generator for normal testing or maintenance activities, check the Air Quality Forecast at NJDEP's website: [www.nj.gov/dep/airmon/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/airmon/)

If you need more information please contact Rich Erickson or Rich Cestone at 800-879-6681.

- .: Emergency generators can be run if the air quality is Good or Moderate.
- .: Print out the forecast on the day of testing and file for your records.
- .: If the air quality anywhere in NJ is listed as Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, or Hazardous, then testing/maintenance CANNOT be done that day.
- .: The Air Quality Forecast can be determined a day in advance. Visit the above website after 5 PM and go to "Tomorrow's air quality forecast".

#### **Important Note**

Emergency generators can be used whenever needed for true emergencies, regardless of the air quality.

The procedures above apply only to normal testing and maintenance usage. They do not apply to emergency usage.

#### **How to Get Started**

Every Municipality and Utility Authority should compile a comprehensive list of their emergency generators, including