

Exemptions from Stage II Vapor Control Requirements in Rhode Island Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 11

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (DEM's) Air Pollution Regulation No. 11 requires gasoline dispensing facilities to operate Stage II vapor recovery systems to capture gasoline vapors emitted during vehicle refueling. However, since many vehicles are now equipped with onboard refueling vapor recovery canisters designed to capture refueling vapors, DEM's Office of Air Resources (OAR) is planning to phase out its Stage II requirements in the coming years.

In June 2012, Governor Chafee signed legislation that allows exemptions from Stage II vapor recovery requirements for:

- (1) New gasoline dispensing facilities (facilities that begin operating after June 6, 2012) and
- (2) **Upon DEM's verification and approval**, gasoline dispensing facilities that undergo the following types of modifications:
 - Removal of underground gasoline storage tanks in order to install or repair a below-ground component of the Stage II vapor collection and control system; or
 - Replacement of fifty percent (50%) or more of its gasoline dispensers.

Before discontinuing operation of a Stage II system in conjunction with one of the above modifications, gasoline dispensing facilities must apply for and receive a Stage II exemption approval from the OAR. Approvals specify decommissioning and testing procedures that must be followed in order to minimize hazards that may result from discontinuation of the operation of Stage II systems.

The OAR plans to amend Regulation No. 11 in the future to specify a timeline and conditions for removal of Stage II systems at existing facilities, in keeping with US EPA requirements. **Until those amendments are final, all Stage II requirements in Regulation No. 11, including requirements for testing, inspecting, and recordkeeping, continue to apply to all existing gasoline dispensing facilities, with the exception of modified facilities granted an exemption as discussed above,**

Questions about Rhode Island Stage II requirements should be addressed to Jack Crawley at (401) 222-4700, ext. 7044, email jack.crawley@dem.ri.gov.