

Small Business Advisor | January 2014

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Stage II Vapor Recovery System Removal grants are now available

MILWAUKEE – Owners and operators of retail gas stations in southeast Wisconsin can now apply for grant funding to remove or decommission Stage II vapor recovery systems under legislation recently signed into law by Gov. Walker.

Under the Biennial Budget (2013 Wisconsin Act 20), the Department of Natural Resources was allocated \$1,000,000 for a grant program to support the removal or decommissioning of Stage II vapor recovery systems. Only owners and operators of retail stations in Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington and Waukesha counties may apply for grant funding for eligible costs incurred after April 15, 2012, to remove or decommission Stage II vapor recovery systems.

The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. The grant amount is 50 percent of eligible costs of removing a Stage II vapor recovery system from a retail station up to a maximum of \$8,000, whichever is less. Eligible costs were defined in the new law and are listed on the grant Web page at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Stage2Vapor.html> where you will find more information and can apply for the grant.

The applicant must be the party that incurred the costs to remove Stage II vapor recovery systems. If the current owner is not the applicant, the party that incurred the costs will be reimbursed. There will be only one reimbursement payment per retail station. The station where hardware has been removed must be a retail gasoline dispensing facility.

Stage II vapor recovery is a control technology located at individual gas stations. The process involves capturing and controlling gasoline vapors when a vehicle is being fueled at the pump by using special dispensing nozzles that collect the vapors and pump them back into the below ground storage tank instead of releasing the vapors into the air.

Stage II vapor recovery systems have been required at gas stations in southeastern Wisconsin for many years, but in May 2012, a finding by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that onboard refueling vapor recovery technology is now widespread in motor vehicles, and the technology performs the same function as a Stage II vapor recovery system. This finding by EPA allows states, including Wisconsin, to no longer require Stage II vapor recovery.

Interested parties are encouraged to apply for the grant now. For grant application questions, contact Nicole Mathews at 608-266-5742. For technical questions regarding the grant, contact Peter Mc Mullen at 414-263-8751.



Small business compliance calendars available soon

Two popular compliance tools for small businesses will be available soon from DNR's [Small Business Environmental Assistance Program](#). One calendar is specifically designed for dry cleaning operations, while the other is for gasoline dispensing facilities. Designed to help companies comply with environmental regulations, both calendars provide factsheets summarizing regulations, highlight regulatory changes and provide space for recordkeeping. If facilities keep the calendar on file for five years, it can serve as their official record.

The dry cleaning calendar is currently being printed and should be available by the end of 2013. The gasoline facilities calendar should be available by early February 2014. The calendars are not intended for free distribution to the public. If you do not receive a calendar by the dates listed above, you can obtain a copy by emailing [Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt](#) or by calling the Small Business Hotline toll-free at 1-855-889-3021.

New DNR policy on handling solvent-contaminated wipes to take effect January 31st

Reusable and disposable wipes are used by businesses and institutions to clean parts and equipment and may become contaminated with solvents and other materials that could classify them as hazardous waste. DNR's Hazardous Waste Program has revised its policy on the handling and management of solvent-contaminated wipes to reflect the requirements in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule, *Conditional Exclusions from Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste for Solvent-Contaminated Wipes*, which will take effect on January 31, 2014. The EPA rule allows exclusions from hazardous waste regulation for reusable and disposable solvent-contaminated wipes under certain conditions. Information on the updated policy can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/wa/wa1207.pdf> and will remain in effect until the federal rule is adopted into the NR 600 series hazardous waste rules.

New engineers hired for sand mine compliance

Two new engineers have joined the Air Management program in DNR's West Central Region to work directly with industrial sand mines. Both started work December 2nd.

Tanner Connors was born and raised in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and graduated in 2010 from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Prior to joining DNR, he worked as an inspector/project engineer on multiple construction projects for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, as well as doing project management in telecommunications. He is stationed in DNR's Eau Claire office.

Frederick Myron "Myron" Smith, a Georgia native, has lived in the Chicago area the past year. Smith earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Savannah State University in Georgia and a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Rutgers University in New Jersey. He is stationed in DNR's La Crosse office.

For more information see the DNR news release: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article_Lookup.asp?id=2786.



- To contact the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program staff, call 1-855-889-3021 (toll free) or send an email to DNRsmallbusiness@wisconsin.gov.
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