



Rock Tenn Steam permit Frequently Asked Questions—5/29/07

Why does Rock-Tenn need steam?

Rock Tenn uses steam for the manufacturing of its paperboard operations. It is the essential energy component that drives the paperboard recycling and manufacturing processes as well as being a source of heat and electricity for the plant.

Where do they currently get steam from?

The Highbridge power plant in St. Paul operated by Xcel Energy has two older (1940's) coal-fired boilers which generate the high pressure/high temperature steam required by Rock Tenn. This steam is piped through a pipeline almost 5 miles long until it reaches the plant.

Why does this have to change?

Due to MERP (Metropolitan Emissions Reduction Project) the Highbridge plant is being converted from outdated coal boilers to state of the art natural gas fired equipment. As part of the conversion authorized in December of 2003 Xcel energy has decided to abandon providing steam to the Rock-Tenn pipeline. The current contract with Rock-Tenn expires in June of 2007, but rock-tenn will continue to receive steam under the existing contract as long as Highbridge provides it (likely a few more months).

What will Rock-Tenn use for a source of steam after Highbridge converts?

Rock-Tenn has existing dual fuel boilers on site which have acted as back-up energy sources to the steam line from Highbridge. These boilers can burn fuel oil or natural gas. They are somewhat aged (early 80's) but function fine in the role of providing steam energy for Rock-Tenn. Typically Rock-Tenn would burn natural gas in the summer months and fuel-oil in the winter months based on the relative cost of each fuel.

Is this operation currently permitted?

Yes, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) permits this facility and these boilers as specific emission units. Last December there was a public meeting at the Hamline Midway Library to discuss their permit and the requirements to be applied to the boilers. Since the boilers have not been run full time for extended periods of time the RTIN neighbors requested that an actual stack test be performed to determine actual emissions under normal operations to determine air quality impacts. This was written into their Title V (Part 70) permit which is federally enforceable by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).





Rock Tenn Steam Permit

How long will they be operating their existing equipment?

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), provided in the handouts, the MPCA identifies this as an interim solution as Rock-Tenn pursues a renewable energy alternative-fuel boiler project. The MOU identifies that a Community Advisory Committee will be created to inform the community of the plans for the replacement steam source and for public participation in the process. The MOU also identifies that Rock-Tenn will provide timelines and periodic updates to the public on when benchmarks have been reached, etc... This memorandum was signed last October.

Where can I find out more about the MOU?

Copies will be provided as handouts at the public forum on May 29th put on by RTIN. Additional information or copies can be requested from RTIN, Rock-Tenn, or the MPCA.

Where can I find out more information about the permit? The MPCA is the responsible agency for creation and oversight of Rock-Tenn's air permit. A copy of the permit should be available on-line from the MPCA's website under the environmental data access section and be searching Rock-Tenn. The permit engineer who worked on the permit is Toni Volkmeier and she can be reached at Toni.Volkmeier@state.mn.us, or by calling the MPCA office at 1-800-657-3864.

What if I have other specific questions about the permit and facility and do not want to call the MPCA?

Contact Steve Haselmann at Rock-Tenn Co, 651-641-4127 or email at shaselma@rocktenn.com to find out more.

What if I have other questions about this topic and do not want to call the MPCA or Rock-Tenn?

Contact the SECIA office at 612-676-1731, and ask to talk to Justin Eibenholz or email envirocoordinator@secomo.org to find out more.

