

**From:** [Mike Ewall](#)  
**To:** [Air Quality Regulations \(DOEE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Amendments to Nuisance Odor Requirements  
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Dear DOEE:

Please accept the following comments on the proposed Nuisance Odor Requirements.

1) An Odor Control Plan is required when DOEE identifies a nuisance odor from a source that is detectable when one (1) volume of odorous air has been diluted with two (2) or more volumes of odor-free air. This seems inappropriate because, by the time a member of the public smells an odor, it's already been diluted many times. Further diluting it only makes it more unlikely that a real odor will not be addressed by DOEE.

2) DOEE should require a look at alternatives for types of facilities that do not need to exist. Similar to the process in Environmental Impact Statements, odorous sources such as commercial solid fuel-fired cooking operations should be required to look at alternatives. There is no need to burn solid fuels to cook, when doing so is far more toxic and polluting than gas-based cooking fuels, or electric cooking. It's even more dangerous for those eating the food. For these kinds of sources that are fundamentally odor-producing and for which safer gas-based, or non-burn options could be used (ideally, non-burn options), DOEE should encourage a switch in the nature of the operation rather than pretend that an odor control plan is financially and technically viable.

3) Many odor control systems involve afterburners. These are combustion systems that create new pollutants like nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, acid gases, and even dioxins/furans (the most toxic chemicals known to science). DOEE should actively discourage the use of afterburners as odor control -- even if they are effective -- simply because they create new air pollution problems in the course of managing odors.

4) Where carbon filters are used, DOEE should require that they be disposed of without burning them in any incinerator, "carbon regeneration" unit or other such combustion system, which simply risks creating more pollution in other communities.

5) Fines must be more expensive than investing in odor reduction measures or they'll just be the cost of doing business.

Sincerely,

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