

FACT SHEET

Draft Air Quality Permit 7301-SM for Fort Myer Construction Corporation – Plant #1 2001 5th Street NE, Washington DC

Fort Myer Construction Corporation (FMCC) operates an existing asphalt plant at 2001 5th Street NE, Washington DC, in the Eckington neighborhood of Ward 5.

FMCC has applied to the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), Air Quality Division (AQD) for a “synthetic minor” air quality permit to continue to operate the facility. As part of its synthetic minor permit, FMCC has agreed to limit its operations in order to reduce its reporting requirements and lower its permitting fees.

In evaluating this permit application, AQD has considered the environmental impacts of the facility on the Eckington neighborhood, in light of substantial input from residents.

On February 16, 2024, AQD published a draft permit based on FMCC’s application. This permit will be open for public review and comment through March 18, 2024. **On March 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm, DOEE will hold a public hearing** to receive additional comment on the draft permit. For more information, see [DOEE’s website](#).

The **special limits on operations** that FMCC agreed to are as follows:

- A limitation on the plant’s annual production of 240,000 tons per year of asphalt product (compared to a previous permit limit of 1,752,000 tons per year).
- A limitation of hourly production of the plant of 120 tons per hour of asphalt product (compared to a previous permit limit of 200 tons per hour).
- A limit on operation of the crusher/screener unit at the site to 10 hours per day (this was a previously existing permit limit).
- A limit on throughput of the crusher/screener unit of 150 tons per hour (this was a previously existing permit limit).

These limits have been incorporated into the draft permit.

In addition to the specific synthetic minor limitations listed above, AQD has incorporated additional new requirements into the permit to reduce the impact of the facility’s pollutant emissions on the neighborhood. These limits include:

More Stringent Emissions Limits

- A reduction of the filterable¹ particulate matter emission limit from the main plant stack from 40 pounds per hour to 3.5 pounds per hour.

¹ Filterable particulate matter is the particulate matter that can be captured on a filter during emissions testing.

- A new total (filterable plus condensable²) particulate matter emission limit from the main plant stack of 5.9 pounds per hour.
- A more stringent oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emission limit of 6.4 pounds per hour.
- A more stringent visible emissions standard has been included in the permit to reflect updated District regulations.

Engine Idling

- FMCC would be required to post signs at the facility in both English and Spanish, notifying drivers of the District’s engine idling restrictions, which prohibit commercial vehicles from idling for more than three minutes.
- FMCC would be required to train their own drivers and conduct outreach to trucking companies that they contract with, to inform them of the District’s engine idling restrictions.

Dust Controls

- FMCC would be required to operate a wet sweeper broom truck to sweep up dust at the facility at least twice per day on each day of facility operations.
- FMCC would be required to maintain and operate water sprinklers throughout the facility, as necessary, to keep dust down.

Monitoring and Testing

- More frequent and more comprehensive emissions tests for particulate matter emissions.
- At least twice per year, FMCC would be required to perform fluorescent dust tests on their dust collector to ensure that the filters in the dust collector are being properly maintained.

Odor Controls

- FMCC would be required to install “blue smoke condensers” on two of their liquid asphalt tanks to minimize odors and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions when filling the tanks.
- FMCC would be required to use odor neutralizers in their asphalt binders to minimize odors from plant operations.

In addition, FMCC is subject to odor regulations under 20 DCMR 903, which required the facility to submit an Odor Control Plan (OCP) to DOEE by November 2, 2023. FMCC submitted an OCP on November 1, 2023. DOEE disapproved the plan by letter dated December 29, 2023, and required FMCC to submit a revised OCP by February 12, 2024. A revised OCP has been submitted and is under review at the time of this writing.

² Condensable particulate matter is the particulate matter that is small enough to pass through a filter, but can be captured in a chilled tube (condenser).

While DOEE has not yet approved an OCP for FMCC, the draft permit requires the facility to comply with the OCP once it is approved and maintain records of any deviations from OCP requirements.

Community Input

AQD believes that the permit, as drafted, will minimize the impact of the facility's emissions on the Eckington neighborhood, but welcomes further feedback from the community during the public review period. All relevant comments received during the public review period will be considered before any final action is taken on the permit application.