



Use of Evaporation Units

Technical Guidance

This technical guidance document describes the conditions under which an evaporation unit may be used without obtaining a permit for the treatment of hazardous waste. The Federal Regulations referred to in this document have been incorporated by reference in [Pima County Code \(PCC\) Title 7, Chapter 7.09](#).

When hazardous waste is evaporated, there is a strong potential for contaminants to be moved from one media (liquid waste) to another media (ambient air). A hazardous waste generator using evaporation units may reduce the volume of the liquid but contaminate the air and surrounding area. If evaporation is used to reduce the volume of hazardous waste and/or to conduct waste minimization, the evaporation process must not allow contaminants to enter the air and thus endanger public health and the environment.

Evaporation of a hazardous waste meets the definition of "treatment" found in [40 CFR 260.10](#). However, evaporation units may be operated without obtaining a permit under the following conditions:

1. The evaporation unit is a sludge dryer that is part of a wastewater treatment system operating under a wastewater treatment exemption and meets the definition in [40 CFR 260.10](#);

OR

2. The evaporation unit meets the definition of a totally enclosed treatment system in [40 CFR 260.10](#). Additional clarification by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on this definition is available upon request.

If the evaporation unit does not meet either of the preceding conditions, the unit is a thermal treatment unit and is subject to the permit requirements of [40 CFR 264, Subpart X](#) or the interim status requirements of [40 CFR Part 265](#).

It is the responsibility of the generator to control and/or monitor the emissions of the evaporation unit and to ensure that no hazardous waste constituents are released into the ambient air.

The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) requests that all plans for evaporation units be reviewed by the department prior to the purchase or installation to determine if the unit will meet the criteria outlined in this guidance document.

For additional information regarding proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Pima County, you may contact the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) at (520) 724-7400, at the address at the beginning of this document, or visit the PDEQ website at <http://www.deq.pima.gov/waste/index.html>.

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