



SOBE Thermal Energy Systems– Frequently Asked Questions

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What application has SOBE Thermal Energy Systems submitted to Ohio EPA?

SOBE submitted a permit-to-install and operate (PTIO) application to Ohio EPA for a scrap tire Thermolyzer (pyrolysis) unit. The PTIO application also requests to use the synthetic gas produced by the pyrolysis unit as fuel in two boilers, along with natural gas that SOBE has already installed. The PTIO is currently the only permit application before Ohio EPA.

What is pyrolysis?

Pyrolysis is chemical decomposition induced in organic materials by heat in the absence of oxygen. (Source: U.S. EPA) Pyrolysis is different from burning. Gasification is a similar process, but pyrolysis is the most accurate term for this application.

Which Ohio EPA division is reviewing SOBE's application?

Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control is reviewing SOBE's application. Ohio EPA performs a thorough review of all permit applications prior to issuance, to ensure the proposed operation will comply with Ohio's environmental rules and laws. An important aspect of our air permit reviews includes consideration of whether the proposed location meets federal air quality standards. If the area's air quality does not meet standards, stricter permitting requirements may apply.

What is the status of the application?

Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control is reviewing the application to determine if the proposed operations will comply with requirements and are protective of human health and the environment. If the proposed operations comply with all requirements, Ohio EPA has an obligation to issue a permit. Ohio EPA would issue a permit as draft and ask for public input. Ohio EPA would review and consider this public input prior to making a final determination regarding the permit. Authorization from Ohio EPA for this project would not supersede any safety requirements from other authorities, such as OSHA, the local fire department, local zoning authority, etc.

What is Ohio EPA's public involvement process?

If a draft permit is issued to SOBE, Ohio EPA will hold a public meeting in the community where our team will explain the content of the draft permit and answer questions from the community. This public meeting will also include a formal public hearing to accept the community's comments on the draft permit. In preparation for a meeting, Ohio EPA will develop lists of stakeholders, including local officials, legislators, concerned citizens, and local environmental organizations. To inform the community of this meeting, Ohio EPA will publish and send a news release, a citizen advisory, and a frequently asked questions document regarding the public meeting. After the meeting, Ohio EPA will develop a response to comments document which responds to the questions provided during the hearing.