

## **RULES**

### **What are the limits on air pollution in the new rules?**

CDPH ordinances prohibit air pollution, and this limit is reinforced in the Rules for Large Recycling Facilities, which prohibit visible dust from leaving the facility property. The new rules also establish a warning level for PM<sub>10</sub>, real-time notification to CDPH if that level is reached, and an action plan to mitigate PM<sub>10</sub> and dust.

### **What do the air monitors do?**

The air monitors measure real-time concentrations of particulate matter measuring 10 microns in diameter, known as PM<sub>10</sub>, in the air. PM<sub>10</sub> includes dust, pollen and mold, and potential sources include combustion emissions, construction sites and industrial facilities.

### **What is the particulate matter warning level?**

The warning level, or Reportable Action Level, for PM<sub>10</sub> is 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged over a 15 minute period.

### **Why is monitoring for PM2.5 not included in the rules?**

The purpose of the air quality modeling and monitoring requirements in the rules is to ensure compliance with the prohibition on fugitive dust that CDPH enforces. The requirements in the large recycler rules require modeling and monitoring of PM10 as a proxy for dust. Because issues with on-road mobile emissions sources and PM2.5 are not exclusive to large recyclers, we believe this concern is better addressed in more comprehensive air permitting rules that we plan to develop.

### **What are the requirements in ordinances and rules regarding the distance from sensitive areas such as residences, churches or schools?**

When applying for a large recycling facility permit, applicants must submit aerial drawings that include a 150 and 660 foot radius from the facility boundaries to identify any features within those boundaries. If there are any sensitive areas such as residences, parks, or schools within the 660 foot radius, tougher requirements to conduct an air quality impact assessment and additional air monitoring apply.

### **How far is the proposed facility from sensitive areas?**

The proposed facility boundary is approximately 1,250 feet from the nearest residences and approximately 1,600 feet from George Washington High School and Rowan Park. The shredder and the autoshredder residue enclosure are over 2,000 feet from the nearest residence.

### **Do all metal shredders have to follow these rules?**

The Rules for Large Recycling Facilities apply to facilities that accept over 1000 tons of recyclable materials per day or that process and shred vehicles.

### **What is being done to prevent explosions and fires at the facility?**

Facilities must develop and submit a Fire Prevention and Response Plan, to include stockpile monitoring with thermal sensors to prevent explosions and fires. The applicant has proposed using a regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO), which has been equipped with combustible gas sensors that shut down the equipment to prevent explosions in the shredder. They will also implement operational controls such as load screening to ensure that such materials do not enter the shredder.

### **What is required to prevent impacts of water runoff from misters used for dust control?**

Although CDPH does not directly regulate or enforce requirements related to water, applicants must submit documentation of a stormwater management plan approved by the Department of Buildings, documentation that the sewers have sufficient capacity to handle the anticipated quantity of stormwater or wastewater, and copies of any required permits issued by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District or IEPA.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

### **Is there a requirement to shut down when there are violations or dangerous conditions?**

The facility must develop an action plan that proposes measures that will be implemented to mitigate an exceedance of the Reportable Action Level for PM<sub>10</sub>. This could include a suspension of certain processes or activities on site if they are found to be contributing to that exceedance. Depending on the nature of the situation, CDPH and the Department of Buildings are authorized to issue a cease and desist order to suspend operations if they pose an immediate threat to health and safety.

### **How frequently will CDPH inspect the facility? What does an inspection entail and what will happen if inspectors find violations of the new rules?**

CDPH inspectors make regular, unannounced inspections of all recycling facilities and also conduct inspections in response to 311 complaints. Inspections may last several hours and include interviewing management on site, review of records, visual inspection of equipment and processes, and documentation of any issues. A [summary of all environmental inspections](#) is available on the City's data portal. Violations of any permit condition or of the dust limits will result in citations and fines.

## **PERMITTING**

### **Why aren't past violations considered when deciding whether to grant a permit to a facility?**

CDPH considers past violations in the permitting process. Included in this assessment is the frequency and severity of violations, efforts to correct the violations, the current status of violations and the compliance track record of the facility's owners and operators.

### **Why can't General Iron stay where they are?**

RMG has acquired the business assets of General Iron but RMG will not be using the vast majority of General Iron's equipment in its business expansion. The new metal recycling facility will employ a new shredder enclosed within a technologically advanced building that is specifically designed to prevent noise and air pollution.

### **How can we stop the permit from being issued?**

In order to obtain a recycling facility permit, an applicant must comply with the requirements of CDPH's Rules for Large Recycling Facilities and the Municipal Code of Chicago. Applicants that do not meet these requirements will be denied a permit.

### **Has the recycling permit been approved?**

No. CDPH is reviewing the application and public comments. If our review and the public comments identify any deficiencies in the application, CDPH will notify the applicant and request a written response and/or supplementary information. CDPH will post each such notification on the City's website. If, after reviewing these responses, CDPH finds that the

application is still incomplete, CDPH will either notify the applicant of the remaining deficiencies and provide a final opportunity to remedy them, or will issue a permit denial letter, depending on the nature and extent of the deficiencies.

### **How can the company start building the facility if permits are still pending?**

The company has been issued building permits and air pollution control permits for the construction of buildings and installation of equipment at the site. However, recycling may not begin until the recycling permit has been issued so any construction or installation is done at their own risk.

### **Why were other permits approved without community feedback?**

RMG is the first company to apply for a recycling permit since the Rules for Large Recycling Facilities went into effect on June 5, 2020. Prior to June 2020, community feedback was not part of the permitting process.

## **OPERATIONS**

### **How will scrap material be transported to and from the proposed site? Will the site be located on the river?**

The company has proposed to bring materials in and out of the facility by barge, truck, and rail. The site is located next to the river.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

### **What has been done to ensure that environmental justice concerns are addressed - for example has IEPA become involved?**

As part of the IEPA's permitting process and in accordance with its Environmental Justice Policy, the state's environmental justice officer held a public meeting to hear community concerns before issuing a construction permit in June. The City is committed to working with residents to improve quality of life and mitigate air pollution in low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately impacted by pollution. Recent air quality initiatives – including the Air Quality and Health Report and large recycler rules - advance community protections. Building on this progress we are now taking further steps to advance environmental justice: Creation of an environmental equity working group to help advise a reform agenda, development of new and revised rules for industrial facilities, development of a zoning ordinance and cumulative burden ordinance requiring new and more stringent permitting requirements, and evaluation and updates of environmental permitting and inspection processes.

### **Is this a violation of the federal Executive Order 12868 on Environmental Justice to move General Iron's facility to the southeast side of Chicago?**

No. Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to develop a strategy to address Environmental Justice concerns, and is not implicated here.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACT**

## **Did the City conduct a cumulative impact analysis of the environmental and health burden related to this permit?**

As part of the recycling permitting process, several components of a cumulative impact assessment are performed by the company applying for the permit and, of which, CDPH reviews and considers carefully. These items include:

- Air impact study to model impacts from equipment, processes, road dust & other sources to ensure facilities will stay within federal standards
- Action plan detailing steps to prevent air pollution violations
- Fugitive dust plan with strong controls for prevention
- Noise study to ensure compliance with City's noise ordinance
- Traffic study for new and expanding facilities to ensure impacts to local traffic are limited
- Stormwater management and pollution prevention plans to ensure adherence with City ordinances and the Clean Water Act

CDPH also utilizes information from our Air Quality & Health Index as part of the permitting process.

## **HEALTH**

### **What are the long-term health risks of exposure to particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub>?**

The size of particulate matter is directly linked to the potential for causing health problems. Fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pose the greatest health risk. These fine particles can affect a person's lungs and heart. Coarse particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) are of less concern, although they can irritate a person's eyes, nose, and throat. The effects of long-term exposure to PM<sub>10</sub> are less clear than that of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, although some research studies have suggested a correlation between long-term PM<sub>10</sub> exposure and respiratory mortality. Because of these potential health outcomes, EPA sets and reviews national air quality standards for PM under the Clean Air Act. Air quality monitors measure concentrations of PM throughout Chicago. CDPH uses this data to ensure that PM in the air is at levels that protect public health and the environment. In addition, the new rules for large recycling facilities also establishes a warning level for PM<sub>10</sub>, real-time notification to CDPH if that level is reached, and an action plan to mitigate PM<sub>10</sub> and dust. The EPA has published a document, [Particle Pollution and Your Health](#), that explains more about who is at risk from exposure to fine and coarse particles.

### **Is funding set aside for healthcare of community residents?**

CDPH partners with several different community-based health clinics to provide comprehensive primary and preventative care to underserved populations, such as the uninsured, low income, Medicaid recipients and racial and ethnic minorities. You can find a community health center [here](#).

### **What are lead testing results for the community?**

The most current information on lead poisoning is available on the [Chicago Health Atlas](#).

**Have there been health studies of the North Side facility?**

CDPH has not conducted any specific health studies related to the North Side facility. However, CDPH does monitor health outcomes and reports this information by neighborhood on the [Chicago Health Atlas](#).

**GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL**

**What measures will be taken to begin cleaning up this neighborhood from historic pollution?**

USEPA and its state and territorial partners have developed a variety of cleanup programs to assess and, where necessary, clean up contaminated sites. Cleanups may be done by EPA, other federal agencies, states or municipalities, or the company or party responsible for the contamination. There are currently 10 active cleanups in 60633 and 60617. More information on these cleanups is available [here](#).

**PROCESS**

**How will we know that public comments were received and considered?**

Receiving and considering public comments is part of CDPH's process for permitting consequential, large recycling facilities as of June 5, 2020. CDPH will post all public comments to the [RMG microsite](#). As set out in the CDPH Guidelines Regarding Permitting Process for Consequential Large Facilities, a responsiveness document will be posted on the City's website at the conclusion of the permitting process. The responsiveness document will collate comments received by the City and provide the City's response to them.

**Will RMG meet with community organizations against the permit?**

The City of Chicago rules for large recycling facilities do not require applicants to meet with community organizations. Community organizations should feel free to reach out to RMG.