

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF
AIR QUALITY

Application Review

Issue Date: XXXXX

Region: Winston-Salem Regional Office
County: Guilford
NC Facility ID: 4100822
Inspector's Name: Robert Barker
Date of Last Inspection: 06/26/2024
Compliance Code: 3 / Compliance - inspection

Facility Data

Applicant (Facility's Name): Thomas Built Buses, Inc. - Courtesy Road Facility

Facility Address:
Thomas Built Buses, Inc. - Courtesy Road Facility
1408 Courtesy Road
High Point, NC 27260

SIC: 3713 / Truck and Bus Bodies
NAICS: 336211 / Motor Vehicle Body Manufacturing

Facility Classification: Before: Title V After: Title V
Fee Classification: Before: Title V After: Title V

Permit Applicability (this application only)

SIP: 02D .0503, .0515, .0516, .0521, .1806
NSPS: Dc
NESHAP: DDDDD, MMMM, PPPP, and ZZZZ
PSD: NA
PSD Avoidance: NA
NC Toxics: NA
112(r): NA
Other: NA

Contact Data

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Application Data

Application Number: 4100822.24A
Date Received: 09/30/2024
Application Type: Renewal
Application Schedule: TV-Renewal
Existing Permit Data
Existing Permit Number: 03209/T22
Existing Permit Issue Date: 04/16/2020
Existing Permit Expiration Date: 03/31/2025

Total Actual emissions in TONS/YEAR:

CY	SO2	NOX	VOC	CO	PM10	Total HAP	Largest HAP
2023	0.0400	3.33	54.76	2.71	2.87	3.09	0.9364 [Methanol (methyl alcohol)]
2022	0.0400	3.44	44.64	2.82	2.67	2.27	0.7417 [Xylene (mixed isomers)]
2021	0.0300	3.40	49.29	2.68	2.49	2.29	0.9105 [Xylene (mixed isomers)]
2020	0.0300	3.58	55.18	2.84	2.18	2.71	1.10 [Xylene (mixed isomers)]
2019	0.0300	4.75	63.03	3.58	2.67	3.02	1.25 [Xylene (mixed isomers)]

Review Engineer: Jacob Larson

Review Engineer's Signature: Date:

Comments / Recommendations:

Issue: 03209/T23

Permit Issue Date:

Permit Expiration Date:

1. Purpose of Application

Thomas Built Buses, Inc. Courtesy Road Facility (TBB) currently holds Title V Permit No. 03209T22 with an expiration date of March 31, 2025 for a bus manufacturing facility in High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina. This permit application is for a permit renewal without modification. The renewal application was received on September 30, 2024 or at least six months prior to the expiration date. Therefore, the existing permit shall not expire until the renewal permit has been issued or denied. All terms and conditions of the existing permit shall remain in effect until the renewal permit has been issued or denied.

2. Facility Description

The facility produces two types of buses, the “D Line” which are larger, and the “Minotour” line, which are smaller. Other than the size, both lines are similar. Chassis for both lines are built off-site. The facility assembles and paints the bus body. Various body panels are cut from the metal stock using the laser cutters. Other operations include epoxy gluing, powder coating, and painting.

The facility is a Title V facility because potential emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) exceed 25 tons per year of all HAPs combined and potential emissions of VOCs exceeds 100 tons per year.

3. History/Background/Application Chronology

History/Background

April 16, 2020 Air Permit No. 03209T22 was issued on April 16, 2020 with an expiration date of March 31, 2025.

Application Chronology

September 30, 2024 DEQ received permit application 4100822.24A for Title V renewal.

October 10, 2024 Sent acknowledgment letter indicating that the application for permit renewal was complete.

February 20, 2025 Draft permit and review forwarded for comments to Permitting Supervisor.

March 27, 2025 Comments received from Joseph Voelker, Permitting Supervisor.

April 04, 2025 Draft permit and review forwarded to the Stationary Compliance Branch for comments. No comment was received on April 14, 2024.

April 04, 2025 Draft permit and review forwarded to the Winston-Salem Regional Office for comments. Minor comments were received on April 22, 2024.

April 04, 2025 Draft permit forwarded to the applicant for comments. Minor comments were received May 07, 2025.

XXXX xx, 2025 Draft permit and permit review forwarded to public notice.

XXXX xx, 2025 Public comment period ends. ____ comments received.

XXXX xx, 2025 EPA comment period ends. ____ comments received.

XXXX xx, 2025 Permit issued.

4. Permit Modifications/Changes and TVEE Discussion

The following table describes the modifications to the current permit as part of the renewal process.

The following changes were made to Air Permit No. 03209T23:*

Page No.	Section	Description of Changes
Throughout		Updated all dates and permit revision numbers
4	1 Emission Source Table	- Revised descriptor for ES-PP03 per applicant request. No physical changes were made. - Added (MACT MMMM and PPPP) to ES-PP03 emission source ID No. - Revised descriptor for CD-DC1 per applicant request. No physical changes were made. - Revised descriptor for ES-CB600 and ES-CONT400 to include “maximum heat input” to conform with current shell language
6	2.1 A	Moved sources ES-MJ and ES-PC from 2.1 A to 2.1 D
10	2.1 B.3	Removed MRR from Natural Gas sources
10	2.1 B.4	Added two-year recordkeeping requirement to NSPS Dc requirement
12	2.1 B.5	Updated reporting requirements to include electronic reporting requirements
14	2.1 D	Added section 2.1 D for Sources ID No. ES-MJ and ES-PC
15	2.2 A	Added Table 2.2 A.1
17	2.2 A.2.c.i(B)(1)(b)	Added test method ASTM D2369-10 per the July 08, 2020 MACT PPPP update
19	2.2 A.2.c.ii(A)(3)	Added density determination method change per July 08, 2020 MACT PPPP update. ASTM Method D1475-98, “Standard Test Method for Density of Liquid Coatings, Inks, and Related Products,” has been replaced with either ASTM D1475-13 or ASTM D2111-10
23	2.2 A.2.f.viii	Added deviation recordkeeping requirement included in the July 08, 2020 MACT PPPP update
23	2.2 A.2.g.vii.(D) and (E)	Added deviation reporting requirement included in the July 08, 2020 MACT PPPP update
26	3 Insignificant Sources Table	- Updated IES-1 descriptor to Caustic metal parts cleaning system - Updated IES-2 and IES-3 descriptor to Solvent metal parts cleaning system - Updated IES-16, IES-17 and IES-18 descriptor to Pretreatment parts washer for Powder Paint Line
27-34	Section 4	Updated General Conditions to version 8.0, 07/10/2024 from version 5.3, 08/21/2018

5. Regulatory Review

TBB is subject to the following regulations. The facility's equipment and operations have not changed since the last renewal in 2020. The permit was updated to reflect the most current stipulations for all applicable regulations, where necessary.

A. The following sources:

- Two dry-filter type paint lines (ID Nos. ES-D-Line and Minotour line) and associated natural gas-fired curing ovens
- Automated dry powder coating operation equipped with powder recovery including one booth controlled by the dust collector and a natural gas-fired dry-off oven and a natural gas-fired side-wall air makeup unit (ID No ES-PP03) with associated Dust Collector for Powder Coating Booth (ID No. CD-DC1)

15A NCAC 02D .0515, Particulates from Miscellaneous Industrial Processes

In general, this rule limits particulate emissions from sources with no other specific particulate emission limits. The limit for any individual source is based on the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{For } P \leq 30, E &= 4.10(P)^{0.67} \\ \text{For } P > 30, E &= 55.0(P)^{0.11} - 40\end{aligned}$$

Where:

E = allowable emission rate in pounds per hour

P = process weight in tons per hour

Liquid and gaseous fuels and combustion air are not considered as part of the process weight.

This rule applies to both bus production lines and the powder coating operation. In order to demonstrate compliance with this rule for the bus production lines, the facility keeps records of process rates such that the actual emissions can be compared to the calculated emission limit. In order to demonstrate compliance with this rule for the powder coating operation (ID No. ES-PP03), the facility operates and maintains a bagfilter. The facility must perform regular maintenance on the bagfilter and submit a summary report regarding the bagfilter twice per year.

Based on the most recent inspection conducted by Robert Barker of WSRO on June 26, 2024, the facility appears to be in compliance with the rule. Continued compliance will be determined with subsequent inspections and reports.

15A NCAC 02D .0516, Sulfur Dioxide from Combustion Sources

This rule requires emissions of sulfur dioxide from any source of combustion, including air pollution control devices, discharge from any vent, stack, chimney, or flare shall not exceed 2.3 pounds of sulfur dioxide per million Btu input.

Natural gas is combusted in the curing and dry off ovens associated with sources (ID Nos. ES-D-Line, Minotour Line, and ES-PP03). Natural gas has negligible sulfur content, as per AP-42 (Section 1.4 Natural Gas Combustion, Table 1-4.2, July 1998). The emission factor from this table is 0.6 lbs of SO₂/million ft³.

$$\frac{0.6 \text{ lbs SO}_2}{1 \times 10^6 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ nat gas}} \times \frac{1 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ nat gas}}{1020 \text{ Btu}} \times \frac{1,000,000 \text{ Btu}}{\text{mm Btu}} = \frac{5.88 \times 10^{-4} \text{ lbs SO}_2}{\text{mmBtu}} \text{ or rounded to } \frac{0.0006 \text{ lbs SO}_2}{\text{mmBtu}}$$

Sulfur dioxide emissions are estimated to be 0.0006 lb/million Btu. Thus, given the large, expected margin of compliance and consistent with current DAQ TV permitting policy, no monitoring, recordkeeping, or reporting for sulfur dioxide emissions from the firing of natural gas in these sources is required pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0508(f). No changes are necessary to the existing permit condition. Continued compliance is expected.

15A NCAC 02D .0521, Control of Visible Emissions

Visible emission (VE) standards provided in this regulation are applicable to potential VE emissions from any stack, vent, or outlet. This regulation limits visible emissions to no more than 20 percent opacity when averaged over a six-minute period. However, six-minute averaging periods may exceed 20 percent not more than once in an hour

and not more than four times in any 24-hour period. In no event shall the six-minute average exceed 87 percent opacity.

TBB demonstrates compliance with this rule by performing monthly observations of each emission source for VE above normal. The facility must keep records of the observations and report them twice per year. Based on the most recent inspection conducted by Robert Barker of WSRO on June 26, 2024, the facility appears to be in compliance with the rule. Continued compliance will be determined with subsequent inspections and reports.

B. The following sources:

- **Two natural gas-fired boilers (ID Nos. ES-CB600 and ES-CONT400), and**
- **Natural gas-fired process hot water heater (ID No. ES-1)**

15A NCAC 02D .0503, Particulate from Fuel Burning Indirect Heat Exchangers

This regulation limits the allowable amount of particulate emissions (PM) from a boiler as a function of the facility-wide heat input capacity of all indirect heat exchangers. Once a limit is determined, it will not be revised upwards or downwards if the facility-wide heat input capacity changes. The formula to determine the allowable emission rate is:

$$E = 1.090 \times Q^{-0.2594}$$

Where:

E = The allowable particulate emission rate, in pounds per million Btu heat input
Q = The facility-wide maximum heat input, in million Btu per hour

- ES-CB600 has a 25.1 million Btu per hour heat input with allowable emission rate (E) of 0.47 pounds per million Btu input.
- ES-CONT400 has a 16.7 million Btu per hour heat input with allowable emission rate (E) of 0.53 pounds per million Btu input.
- ES-1 has a 15 million Btu per hour heat input with allowable emission rate (E) of 0.54 pounds per million Btu input.

The emission factor for natural gas (NG) combustion is 0.007 lbs/million Btu per Table 1.4-2 of US EPA, AP-42. Thus, given the large, expected margin of compliance and consistent with current DAQ TV permitting policy, no monitoring, recordkeeping, or reporting will be required pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0508(f). Continued compliance is expected.

15A NCAC 02D .0516, Sulfur Dioxide from Combustion Sources

This rule requires emissions of sulfur dioxide from any source of combustion, including air pollution control devices, discharge from any vent, stack, chimney, or flare shall not exceed 2.3 pounds of sulfur dioxide per million Btu input.

Natural gas has negligible sulfur content, as per AP-42 (Section 1.4 Natural Gas Combustion, Table 1-4.2, July 1998). The emission factor from this table is 0.6 lbs of SO₂/million ft³.

$$\frac{0.6 \text{ lbs SO}_2}{1 \times 10^6 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ nat gas}} \times \frac{1 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ nat gas}}{1020 \text{ Btu}} \times \frac{1,000,000 \text{ Btu}}{\text{mm Btu}} = \frac{5.88 \times 10^{-4} \text{ lbs SO}_2}{\text{mmBtu}} \text{ or rounded to } \frac{0.0006 \text{ lbs SO}_2}{\text{mmBtu}}$$

Sulfur dioxide emissions are estimated to be 0.0006 lb/million Btu. Thus, given the large, expected margin of compliance and consistent with current DAQ TV permitting policy, no monitoring, recordkeeping, or reporting for sulfur dioxide emissions from the firing of natural gas in these sources is required pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0508(f). No changes are necessary to the existing permit condition. Continued compliance is expected.

15A NCAC 02D .0521, Control of Visible Emissions—

Visible emission (VE) standards provided in this regulation are applicable to potential VE emissions from any stack, vent, or outlet. This regulation limits visible emissions to no more than 20 percent opacity when averaged over a six-minute period and 40% opacity for sources built prior to July 01, 1971. However, six-minute averaging periods

may exceed opacity standard not more than once in an hour and not more than four times in any 24-hour period. In no event shall the six-minute average exceed 87 percent opacity.

- ES-CONT400 was built prior to July 01, 1971 therefore has an opacity standard of 40%.
- ES-CB600 and ES-1 were built after July 01, 1971 therefore have an opacity standard of 20%.

The existing permit required monthly monitoring, recordkeeping and semiannual reporting. Natural gas produces very little to no visible emissions when combusted. However, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting (MRR) requirements are not needed due to the large, expected margin of compliance from firing only natural gas. Confirmed that the sources are only natural gas compatible with facility on March 25, 2025. The most recent inspection conducted by Robert Barker on June 26, 2024 indicated that there were no deviations with the 20% and 40% opacity requirements for these sources. Therefore, the MRR will be removed as result of this renewal. The removal of these MRR requirements is consistent with current DAQ TV permitting policy, pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0508(f).

C. Diesel fired emergency generator 665 hp (ID Nos. ES-D21)

15A NCAC 02D .0516, Sulfur Dioxide from Combustion Sources

This rule requires emissions of sulfur dioxide from any source of combustion, including air pollution control devices, discharge from any vent, stack, chimney, or flare shall not exceed 2.3 pounds of sulfur dioxide per million Btu input.

This engine is permitted to operate on diesel fuel. The AP-42, Table 3.3-1, emission factor for SO₂ emissions from diesel engines is 0.29 pounds per million Btu. Compliance with 2D .0516 is indicated for diesel fuel combustion based on the AP-42 emission factors.

Thus, given the large, expected margin of compliance and consistent with current DAQ TV permitting policy, no monitoring, recordkeeping, or reporting for sulfur dioxide emissions from the firing of diesel fuel in this source is required pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0508(f). No changes are necessary to the existing permit condition. Continued compliance is expected.

15A NCAC 02D .0521, Control of Visible Emissions –

Visible emission (VE) standards provided in this regulation are applicable to potential VE emissions from any stack, vent, or outlet. This regulation limits visible emissions to no more than 20 percent opacity when averaged over a six-minute period and 40% opacity for sources built prior to July 01, 1971. However, six-minute averaging periods may exceed opacity standard not more than once in an hour and not more than four times in any 24-hour period. In no event shall the six-minute average exceed 87 percent opacity.

There are no MRR requirements for this source due to diesel combustion producing little visual emissions. Based on the inspection report for the inspection conducted by Robert Barker of WSRO on June 26, 2024, the facility appears to be in compliance with the rule. Continued compliance will be determined with subsequent inspections.

D. The following sources:

- **Metal body joining operation using adhesives (ID No. ES-MJ)**
- **Facility-wide parts cleaning operations (ID No. ES-PC)**

These sources are only subject to 15A NCAC 02D .1111 (40 CFR Part 63, Subpart Mmmm and Pppp). See section 6 below for more detail.

Facility-Wide

15A NCAC 02D .1806, Control and Prohibition of Odorous Emissions –

The Permittee shall not operate the facility without implementing management practices or installing and operating odor control equipment sufficient to prevent odorous emissions from the facility from causing or contributing to objectionable

odors beyond the facility's boundary. There have been no odor complaints in the last 5 years. Continued compliance is anticipated.

6. NSPS, NESHAPS/MACT, PSD, 112(r), CAM

NSPS

40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Dc "Standards of Performance for Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units"

This rule incorporates the NSPS rules into North Carolina's SIP. The only NSPS rule that applies to this facility is Subpart Dc "Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units". Subpart Dc applies to all boilers constructed after 1989 with a heat input greater than 10 million Btu per hour. The only such boiler at this facility is ES-1. For natural gas-fired boilers with a heat input less than 30 million Btu per hour, the only requirement under this rule is to keep monthly records of fuel use. No reporting is required. Based on the most recent inspection report, Facility appears to be in compliance with this rule. Continued compliance with this rule will be determined with subsequent inspections.

40 CFR Part 60, Subpart IIII "Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines", and Subpart JJJJ "Stationary Spark Ignition Internal Combustion Engines"

These rules apply to stationary reciprocating engines constructed after April 2006 (for compression ignition engines) or July 2008 (for spark ignition engines). None of the stationary engines at this facility were constructed after these dates. Therefore, these rules do not apply to this facility.

NESHAP/MACT

40 CFR 63, Subpart DDDDD "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters"

This rule applies to boilers and process heaters (defined by 40 CFR 63.7575) located at a major source of HAP. Sources (**ID Nos. ES-1, ES-CB600, and ES-CONT400**) i.e. existing boilers/process heaters designed to burn gas 1 fuels (natural gas).

Requirements: For gas 1 boilers and process heaters (**ID Nos. ES-1, ES-CB600, and ES-CONT400**) the rule requires:

- Operate with good work practices
- Conduct initial and annual tune-ups for boilers with capacity greater than 10 MMBtu/hr
- For existing boilers, conduct an initial, one-time energy assessment.

Monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting: The facility must keep records of the tune-ups and other maintenance activities and submit regular reports.

Inspection conducted by Robert Barker of WSRO on June 26, 2024 the facility appeared to be in compliance with this rule.

40 CFR 63 Subpart MMMM "National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products"

This rule applies to facilities that apply coatings to metal parts and are major sources of HAPs. Each of the coating lines at this facility is subject to this rule. This facility is considered "existing" under this rule.

In general, this rule limits emissions of HAP from coating processes to 0.31 kg organic HAP emitted per liter of coating solids used. The facility demonstrates compliance with Subpart MMMM by maintaining compliance with the more stringent Subpart PPPP requirements as detailed below.

The last permit renewal for this facility was issued on April 16, 2020 . MACT MMMM was first promulgated on January 2, 2004, but has been updated four times since the last renewal (T22): on July 8, 2020; on November 19, 2020; on January 19, 2021; and on March 8, 2023. None of the changes affect the language that currently exists in the permit, so no updates are required for this renewal.

40 CFR 63 Subpart PPPP “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Surface Coating of Plastic Parts and Products”

This rule applies to facilities that apply coatings to plastic parts and are major sources of HAPs. Each of the coating lines at this facility is subject to this rule. This facility is considered “existing” under this rule.

This rule limits emissions of HAP from coating processes to 0.16 kg organic HAP emitted per kg of coating solids used. In order to demonstrate compliance with this rule, the facility keeps track of materials used and then calculates HAP emissions via the “emission rate without add-on controls option” or examines each coating material using the “compliant material option”. The rule gives specific formulas and calculation methods for each option. The facility is required to keep records of all material usage and compliance calculations and submit reports twice per year.

The last permit renewal for this facility was issued on April 16, 2020. MACT PPPP was first promulgated on April 19, 2004, but has been updated three times since the renewal (T22): on July 8, 2020; on November 19, 2020; and on January 19, 2021. An alternative to EPA Method 24, used for determining the mass fraction of nonaqueous volatile matter in coatings, has been introduced. ASTM D2369-10 (Reapproved 2015) has been added as of July 8, 2020. Also, ASTM Method D1475-98, “Standard Test Method for Density of Liquid Coatings, Inks, and Related Products,” has been replaced with either ASTM D1475-13 or ASTM D2111-10 (Reapproved 2015). Recordkeeping and reporting have been expanded to include requirements for deviations. These alternatives have been included in the permit language, in Sections 2.2 A.2.

40 CFR Part 63, Subpart ZZZZ "Stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines"

This rule applies to all stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines ("RICE"). The only stationary RICE at this facility is ES-D21. The requirements of Subpart ZZZZ depend on the type of engine in question. For the purposes of this rule, ES-D21 is considered an emergency-use, compression ignition engine, with a site rating of more than 500 horsepower, located at a major source of HAP. Per 40 CFR 63.6590(b)(3)(iv), such sources are subject to this rule, but do not have to meet the requirements of this rule.

PSD

The facility is located in Guilford County which is designated as in attainment for all pollutants. The facility is a minor facility under Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and is not currently subject to any PSD regulations. This permit renewal does not affect this status.

112(r)

The facility is not subject to Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act requirements because it does not store any of the regulated substances in quantities above the 112(r) thresholds. No change with respect to 112(r) is anticipated under this permit renewal.

CAM

The CAM rule (40 CFR 64; 15A NCAC 02D .0614) applies to each pollutant specific emissions unit (PSEU) at major TV facilities that meets all three following criteria:

- the unit is subject to any (non-exempt: e.g. pre November 15, 1990, Section 111 or Section 112 standard) emission limitation or standard for the applicable regulated pollutant.
- the unit uses any control device to achieve compliance with any such emission limitation or standard.
- The unit has potential pre-control device emissions of the applicable regulated air pollutant that are equal to or greater than 100 percent of the amount, in tons per year, required for a source to be classified as a major source (i.e., 100 tons per year for criteria pollutants or 10/25 tons per year for HAPs).

This facility only operates one emission source with a control device (ID No. ES-PP03). This emission source does not have potential emissions greater than any major source threshold and therefore is exempt from CAM.

7. Facility Wide Air Toxics

All sources of toxic air pollutants (TAPs) from TBB are subject to MACT Subpart 5D, 4M, 4P and 4Z. North Carolina G.S. 143-215.107(a) exempts emission sources subject to MACT standards from NC Air Toxics regulations provided their emissions do not “present an unacceptable risk to human health,” in accordance with G.S. 143-215.107(b) as codified on May 1, 2014. As part of a previous permit renewal (03209T20, issued August 21, 2015), the DAQ conducted a TAP evaluation and demonstrated emission sources of TAPs present no unacceptable risk to human health. The conditions referencing 15A NCAC 02D .1100 were removed from the permit under the prior TV permit renewal. Upon review, no significant changes to the permit have occurred since the T20 Tap evaluation. Therefore, the current permit renewal does not change the facility’s status with respect to NC Air Toxics.

8. Facility Emissions Review

The facility-wide potential emissions do not change under this TV permit renewal. Actual emissions for criteria pollutants and HAPs for the years 2019 through 2023 are provided in the header of this permit review.

9. Compliance Status

DAQ has reviewed the compliance status of TBB. During the most recent inspection, conducted on June 26, 2024 by Robert Barker of Winston-Salem Regional Office, the facility appeared to be in compliance with all applicable requirements.

The facility has had the following air quality violations in the last five years:

February 13, 2023	Facility received Notice of Violation (NOV). Late tune-up for 40 CFR part 63 DDDDD. NOV was resolved same day.
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The facility’s Annual Compliance Certification was received on January 29, 2024 and indicated compliance with all applicable requirements in 2023.

10. Public Notice/EPA and Affected State(s) Review

A notice of the DRAFT Title V Permit shall be made pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0521. The notice will provide for a 30-day comment period, with an opportunity for a public hearing. Consistent with 15A NCAC 02Q .0525, the EPA will have a concurrent 45-day review period. Copies of the public notice shall be sent to persons on the Title V mailing list and EPA. Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02Q .0522, a copy of each permit application, each proposed permit and each final permit shall be provided to EPA. Also pursuant to 02Q .0522, a notice of the DRAFT Title V Permit shall be provided to each affected State at or before the time notice provided to the public under 02Q .0521 above. No affected states or local agencies are within 50 miles of this facility.

11. Other Regulatory Considerations

- A P.E. seal is NOT required for this renewal application.
- A zoning consistency determination is NOT required for this renewal application.
- A permit fee is NOT required for this renewal application.
- EPA has promulgated a rule (88 FR 47029, July 21, 2023), with an effective date of August 21, 2023, removing the emergency affirmative defense provisions in operating permits programs, codified in both 40 CFR 70.6(g) and 71.6(g). EPA has concluded that these provisions are inconsistent with the EPA's current interpretation of the enforcement structure of the CAA, in light of prior court decisions¹. Moreover, per EPA, the removal of these provisions is also consistent with other recent EPA actions involving affirmative defenses² and will harmonize the EPA's treatment of affirmative defenses across different CAA programs.

As a consequence of this EPA action to remove these provisions from 40 CFR 70.6(g), it will be necessary for states and local agencies that have adopted similar affirmative defense provisions in their Part 70 operating permit programs to revise their Part 70 programs (regulations) to remove these provisions. In addition, individual operating permits that contain Title V affirmative defenses based on 40 CFR 70.6(g) or similar state regulations will need to be revised.

Regarding NCDAQ, it has not adopted these discretionary affirmative defense provisions in its Title V regulations (15A NCAC 02Q .0500). Instead, DAQ has chosen to include them directly in individual Title V permits as General Condition (GC) J.

Per EPA, DAQ is required to promptly remove such impermissible provisions, as stated above, from individual Title V permits, after August 21, 2023, through normal course of permit issuance.

12. Recommendations

The permit renewal application for Thomas Built Buses, Inc located in High point, Guilford County, North Carolina has been reviewed by DAQ to determine compliance with all procedures and requirements. DAQ has determined this facility is complying or will achieve compliance, as specified in the permit, with all requirements that are applicable to the affected sources.

¹ NRDC v. EPA, 749 F.3d 1055 (D.C. Cir. 2014).

² In newly issued and revised New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), emission guidelines for existing sources, and NESHAP regulations, the EPA has either omitted new affirmative defense provisions or removed existing affirmative defense provisions. See, e.g., National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry and Standards of Performance for Portland Cement Plants; Final Rule, 80 FR 44771 (July 27, 2015); National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters; Final Rule, 80 FR 72789 (November 20, 2015); Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units; Final Rule, 81 FR 40956 (June 23, 2016).