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State environmental regulators consider permanent air pollution rules for art glass makers

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The state Environmental Quality Commission is expected to vote Thursday on permanent rules governing air pollution from art glass manufacturers.

The **Department of Environmental Quality** has proposed revised regulations for art glass makers that would now apply statewide, which the state EQC will take action on at its Portland offices.

The new rules would impact a handful of Oregon companies, including Uroboros Glass Studios Inc. in North Portland and Bullseye Glass Co. in Southeast Portland. The sites were at the heart of a toxic air scare that started earlier this year after elevated levels of hazardous pollutants were found near the two facilities.

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State environmental leaders are poised to vote on more stringent rules for air pollution from art glass makers this week.

The new rules would apply to all colored art glass makers that produce more than five tons per year of glass containing certain hazardous air pollutants. The new rules are aiming to prevent unsafe levels of glassmaking hazardous air pollutants, such as arsenic, cadmium and chromium. Newly added to the list is selenium, based on DEQ-monitored levels of selenium that were at or exceeding the daily maximum acceptable concentration.

The full DEQ staff rules report can be read here. This attachment has a breakdown of equipment costs. The agenda for Thursday's meeting is here.

In May, DEQ received the initial results of a U.S. Forest Service survey of moss samples containing high levels of cadmium and arsenic in Southeast Portland and cadmium in North Portland.

That prompted DEQ to set up air monitoring systems near the glass company in Southeast Portland, with the results in October confirming the glass company was the likely source. DEQ identified a second area of concern near the glass company in North Portland.

Bullseye Glass has already installed three pollution controls called baghouses that will comply with the new rules, said George Davis, a DEQ senior environmental engineer. According to DEQ materials, one baghouse costs between \$400,000 and \$610,000 to install. Even with the new controls, earlier this month the agency found spiking selenium levels at the Southeast Portland monitor.

If the new rules pass, Bullseye would likely need to spend between \$10,000 and \$30,000 additionally on after-filters or baghouse leak detection units, Davis said.

Northstar Glassworks, Glass Alchemy and Trautman Art Glass, all of which are in Portland, will all be impacted if the new rules are passed. Northstar has already installed one baghouse and the others plan to in order to comply with the expected new rules, according to Davis. Those companies also will likely need after-filters or baghouse leak detection devices.

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