
Date: April 7, 2010
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Dick Pedersen, Director
Subject: Agenda item R, Informational item: DEQ's new VirtualPaint system
April 29-30, 2010 EQC meeting

Purpose of item This informational item introduces the VirtualPaint system and will explain how this portable, stand-alone virtual spray painting system will help DEQ staff provide instruction on the fundamentals of effective spray coating application.

Background Last December EQC adopted the federal national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants, OAR 340-216-0020, area source standards for paint stripping and surface coating activities. One of the most important elements of the regulation is the requirement for all spray painters to be certified as having participated in classroom and practical training.

To aid DEQ in providing the required training at no cost to the small businesses affected by OAR 340-216-0020, staff applied for and received an EPA grant. A large portion of the grant money was designated for the purchase of virtual equipment for this purpose in order to easily and cost effectively reach areas of the state where availability of training is generally deficient.

The VirtualPaint system was developed by the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa. The Iowa Waste Reduction Center has been a leading advocate for the value-added benefits of properly trained painters, and currently provides the only virtual paint system of this kind. VirtualPaint can be used in any setting without the aid of a paint booth, paint or personal protective equipment. For this reason, painters can focus on the best way to decrease emissions of hazardous air pollutants by increasing surface coverage, which decreases the percentage of nonvolatile materials that are actually deposited on the surface.

Increases in transfer efficiency will reduce emissions of chromium, cadmium, lead, nickel and manganese from this industry sector.

Next steps

DEQ staff has developed a training curriculum which was vetted through DEQ's air quality management team. The VirtualPaint curriculum will provide benefit to our stakeholders while reducing emissions of toxic air pollutants which harm human health and the environment

Approved:

Division: _____

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