

1. authorizes the
environmental
protection agency
(epa) to



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1. What is a Title V permit, what are the applicable regulations, who must obtain one, who issues and enforces the permit, and what rights do citizens have in the issuance process? The Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law within the United States, that is designed to control air pollution on a national level. This law was first passed in 1963. In 1990 amendments were added that included Title V.

Title V authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to oversee a national operating permit program which covers industries that produce air pollutants. Title V requires large businesses to not only address pollutants released into the air, but measure their quantity, and have a plan to control and minimize them. Not every industry or business needs a Title V permit to operate, even if they emit some type of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs.) A company or facility must meet one or more of the following requirements in order to be obliged to obtain a Title V permit:

- It must be determined if a facility is a major source of air pollutants and to determine the Potential-to-Emit (PTE) from all operations. The PTE demonstrates the maximum air pollutants, including HAPs, a facility may emit. The facility PTE should then be compared to the following Major Source Thresholds (MSTs.) A Title V permit will be required if your facility emits over:
 - Ø 100 tons per year of any air pollutant;
 - Ø 10 tons per year of a single HAP; and
 - Ø 25 tons per year of any combination of HAPs.
- The facility emits over 50 tons per year of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or Nitrogen Oxides.

- If any of the emitted sources (of any size) are subject to federal Acid Rain regulations.
- If the facility uses a solid waste incinerator that is

subject to Section 129(e) of the CAA. This type of incinerator has the capacity to burn over 35 Mg per day of residential or commercial waste.

If the facility emits more than 100,000 tons of Carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases per year, Any Non-major sources that are subject to National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) If a facility is required to obtain a Title V permit, the process must start with a state or local air pollution control agency. Once a facility has applied for the permit, the EPA has 45 days to review the permit proposal and submit any changes to the standard Title V conditions that pertain to the facility's location, the potential to emit, types of processes, and other environmental aspects which could impact the facility's ability to comply with the overall requirements of the CAA. During the next step, the facility's Title V permit enters the public domain and is available for public and governmental scrutiny. Comments from the public and local governing bodies are collected for 30 days and are later used during the EPA's evaluation of the Title V permit application. Once the EPA has reviewed the permit proposal and the public commentary, it will either reject or accept the Title V permit. If the EPA rejects the permit application, the facility will have 90 days to revise the permit proposal to comply with the EPA's recommendations that are designed to keep the facility's emissions compliant with the CAA. If the facility's permit is accepted, the public will be given 60 additional days to submit any complaints they may have, if the complaint is based on comments collected during the public review period.

If the public did not raise any issues previously, they cannot block your permit now. However, the public can issue a complaint based on a situation <https://assignbuster.com/1-authorizes-the-environmental-protection-agency-epa-to/>

that occurred within the last 30 days, as this would have happened outside the public comment period. Once approved the permit is good for a period of five years.

2. Describe the EPA's market cap and trade system, and do you believe it has been an effective method to reduce SO₂ and NO_x emissions in the United States. Within the United States the EPA regulates emissions trading, sometimes referred to as "cap and trade" or "allowance trading," to reduce air pollution emissions and has been used successfully to protect human health and the environment. Two popular programs that use this system is the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and the Acid Rain Program (ARP).

) The emissions trading program has two key components: a limit (cap) on certain emissions, and tradable allowances equal to the limit that authorized allowance holders "own" to emit a specific quantity of a specific pollutant. This limit ensures that the environmental goal is met and the tradable allowances provide flexibility for individual facilities or companies to set their own in-house compliance goal or limit. Since allowances can be bought and sold on the free market, these programs are often referred to as "market-based." The emissions trading programs provide:

- Environmental certainty, established by the EPA to ensure a national pollution limit.

- Flexibility for individual emissions generators to tailor their compliance path to their individual needs.
- Incentives for efficiency and innovation that lower implementation costs.
- The incentive for early pollution reductions because of the ability to save and sell surplus allowances.
- Low administrative costs.
- Accountability for

reducing, tracking and reporting emissions. Allowances can be bought directly from a company or individual who owns them.

They can also be bought through a special emissions broker. Many environmental groups buy the allowances and "retire" them, to reduce air pollution. Additionally, SO₂ allowances for the ARP can be bought at EPA's Annual SO₂ Allowance Auction. The Auction is held online, annually, on the last Monday of March.

Auctions are divided into two sections: 1. A spot allowance auction, in which allowances are sold that can be used in that same year for compliance purposes. 2. An advance auction for the sale of allowances that will become usable for compliance 7 years after the transaction date. These allowances may be traded before that date. The author believes that the emissions trading program is an effective method of helping reduce both SO₂ and NO_x emissions. The laws, restrictions, and programs set forth by Congress and the EPA can be seen as an infringement on the economic market and the freedom to operate one's business in a free manner. Programs such as emissions trading programs, while restrictive allow the businesses to have a great deal of control over the government restrictions.

All allowance trades and transactions must be reported to the EPA. By allowing business to make their own decisions on upgrading to technology that prevents or controls pollutant emissions, set in-house limits on emissions, or set a limit on the production and release of said emissions, the government has given the business the freedom to conduct their business in the way they see fit, while at the same time control and lower air pollution.

The author believes that only business should be allowed to buy and trade the allowances.

If environmental groups buy too many allowances, it may upset the productive balance between the EPA and business. 3. What is global climate change? What is the problem, what do we know and what has been done? Provide your thoughts on global climate change and the role of the United States on the global stage. Climate change refers to a broad range of changes that are happening to the planet Earth.

These include rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, accelerating ice melt in Antarctica, the Arctic, and Greenland as well as shifts in flower/plant blooming times. These are all consequences of global warming, which is caused mainly by the combustion of fossil fuels which emit heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The terms "global warming" and "climate change" are sometimes used interchangeably, but they refer to two different things. Global warming is the first step of climate change. Global warming is caused by CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere, which traps heat, and creates warmer temperatures.

The release of these and other pollutants also break down the Ozone layer, which protects Earth from the sun's radiation. The climate change process starts when glacial ice begins to melt due to the increased temperature. This ice reflects radiation from the Sun into space, which helps keep the earth the correct temperature. When the glacial ice is completely melted the radiation is absorbed into the ocean water.

This changes the water temperature, which affects current movements and speed. The warmer air also collects more moisture from evaporation. When the warm water saturated air, changing water temperatures, and currents collide with normal weather patterns, strong storms are created. These storms cause massive amounts of damage to manmade objects, sometimes releasing more pollutants into the environment.

Climate change does not end with air pollution, many scientists and research groups include earthquakes and tsunamis into climate change. It is believed that the more recent and frequent earthquake events around the world have been caused by fracking for oil and gas. Fracking is the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks, as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas. This process releases copious amounts of methane into the atmosphere, contributing to the global warming.

If an earthquake happens in or near the ocean a Tsunami is created which can wreak havoc upon communities and industries along the shorelines, releasing, even more, pollutants into the environment. The author believes that the United States and other First World countries need to lead by example, on the subject of climate change. The First World countries have already had industrial revolutions that boosted and changed their economies. Second and Third world countries do not have the wealth or technology to install and enforce the same type of pollution prevention and control technologies that the First World countries have. The author also believes that individual states or the United Nations (UN) should not require or force sovereign states to follow the environmental policies and practices that they want to be enacted. While it would be nice if the entire world came to the <https://assignbuster.com/1-authorizes-the-environmental-protection-agency-epa-to/>

same conclusion on the practice of climate change prevention, it is just not feasible.