

PADEP Issues General Permit for Gaseous Fuel-Fired Spark Ignition Internal Combustion Engines

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(by **Joe Reinhart**, **Sean McGovern**, **Matt Wood** and **Alex Graf**)

On April 5, 2025, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued the General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Gaseous Fuel-Fired Spark Ignition Internal Combustion Engines (BAQ-GPA/GP-16). 55 Pa. Bull. 2680 (Apr. 5, 2025).

A General Permit is a plan approval and operating permit for a specific category of sources that PADEP has determined can be adequately regulated under standardized conditions. Section 6.1(f) of the Air Pollution Control Act (35 Pa. Stat. § 4006.1(f)) and 25 Pa. Code ch. 127, subch. H (relating to general plan approvals and operating permits) authorize PADEP to develop General Permits.

PADEP is also authorized to require new sources to control air pollution through the use of best available technology (BAT) under section 6.6 of the Air Pollution Control Act. In developing General Permits, PADEP establishes BAT for new sources, which can include equipment, devices, methods, or techniques to control air emissions to the maximum degree possible utilizing technologies that are available or may be made available. 25 Pa. Code § 121.1.

GP-16 sets BAT emission limits for certain new gaseous fuel-fired spark ignition internal combustion engines that are more stringent than the applicable New Source Performance Standards for these engines in 40 C.F.R. pt. 60, subpt. JJJJ, and 40 C.F.R. pt. 63, subpt. ZZZZ. GP-16 includes standardized requirements related to BAT and additional terms including recordkeeping and reporting requirements, a compliance certification, source testing requirements, and compliance with applicable New Source Performance Standards. The use of the GP-16 is restricted to facilities that are minor sources.

Prior to the issuance of this General Permit, sources seeking to install and operate spark ignition engines were either required to meet certain exemption criteria or go through the full plan approval process to permit these sources. GP-16 will streamline the permitting process for owners and operators who wish to install spark ignition engines at their facilities in Pennsylvania.

A copy of the General Permit, application instructions, the comment and response document, and technical support document can be found on PADEP's website [here](#).

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Babst | Calland
Attorneys at Law

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