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Department of Environmental Quality

Office of the Secretary

Legal Affairs Division

VOC and Methane Standards for the Crude Oil and Natural Gas Source Category

On November 30, 2023,EPA finalized new volatile organic compound (VOC) and methane regulations for the crude oil and natural gas source category. This rulemaking was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8, 2024, and became effective on May 7, 2024.

The aforementioned regulations include 40 CFR 60 Subpart OOOOb – Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities for Which Construction, Modification or Reconstruction Commenced After December 6, 2022. Subpart OOOOb requires tank batteries with potential VOC emissions of 6 tons per year or more and/or methane emissions of 20 tons per year or more to be controlled. Tank batteries with potential emissions below these thresholds (accounting for all legally and practicably enforceable limits established by the permitting authority) do not require controls.

Most crude oil and natural gas production facilities in Louisiana are permitted under the Minor Source Air General Permit for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production (i.e., the MSOG).  On October 7, 2024, after providing public notice and an opportunity for public comment, LDEQ modified the MSOG to add the requirements of Subpart OOOOb and to establish legally and practicably enforceable limits consistent with 40 CFR 60.5365b(e)(2) such that owners and operators of tank batteries constructed, modified, or reconstructed after December 6, 2022, with potential VOC and methane emissions of less than 6 and 20 tons per year, respectively, will not be subject to the control requirements of Subpart OOOOb if they comply with prescribed monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.

The revised MSOG is available on LDEQ’s website at https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/minor-source-general-permits. Questions may be directed to Ms. Ashley Viator at (225) 219-3459 or ashley.viator@la.gov.

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Secretary