

# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Stage II Vapor Recovery Decommissioning General Information and Questions & Answers

**General Information:** The Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted rule amendments to the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery equipment program effective December 19, 2013. In summary, the amended rules make three significant changes:

1. Beginning January 1, 2014, removes the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery equipment installation requirements for new retail and commercial gasoline dispensing facilities (GDF) in the Chicago nonattainment area.
2. Existing GDFs that have Stage II systems must decommission such equipment between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2016.
3. Establishes decommissioning procedures, qualified contractor eligibility requirements, and required reporting to be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) within certain timeframes.

## Questions Involving the Rules, Timing, and Important Dates

1. **When can I decommission the Stage II equipment at my station or facility?**

Decommissioning may begin on or after January 1, 2014.

2. **When must decommissioning be completed?**

Each owner or operator of a GDF in the Chicago area has three years to decommission the Stage II equipment. Decommissioning must be completed by December 31, 2016.

3. **Where can I find the recent rule changes involving the repeal of having to install Stage II gasoline vapor recovery equipment and the rules and procedures for decommissioning existing Stage II equipment?**

The rules can be found at [35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586](#). Please click on this link or go to the Stage II Decommissioning section identified at the top of the right sidebar at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us).

4. **Can I turn off my Stage II equipment after January 1, 2014, even though I probably will not get around to decommissioning the equipment for several more weeks or months?**

No. The Stage II equipment must stay in operation on the dispensers until decommissioning takes place. The Illinois EPA will continue to conduct routine Stage II inspections at GDFs in the Chicago area through 2016 to ensure that, prior to decommissioning, the equipment is operational and properly maintained.

**5. Prior to decommissioning, do I need to maintain and replace worn out components of the Stage II system?**

Yes, the Stage II equipment and its components must remain in good working order, with proper maintenance, and stay in service until the day that contractors arrive to decommission the equipment at the site. If nozzles, hoses, vacuum-assist pumps, or other components need to be replaced prior to decommissioning your facility, you must use Stage II-compatible parts and accessories that are certified for use with your type of system, as you have in the past.

**Questions involving Decommissioning Procedures, Forms, and Contractors**

**6. What are the qualification requirements for the contractors?**

Decommissioning activities may involve one or more contracting companies (“contractors”) involving piping work, dispenser work, and pressure decay and tie-tank testing. The owner or operator of a GDF must use qualified contractors to complete the decommissioning work. The **Piping Contractor** and the **Dispenser Contractor** must have a valid Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal “Install/Retrofitting” license number and a valid 4-digit Illinois Department of Agriculture Registered Repair company identification number for the 3A Gasoline Pump Meter registration. In addition, the Piping and Dispenser Contractor(s) must have training and certification (if any) from the manufacturer of the respective dispenser. The **Testing Contractor**, for the pressure decay and tie-tank tests, must have a valid Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal “Tank Tightness Testing” license number.

**7. How do I find or identify qualified contractors with the appropriate licensing and registrations?**

To find contractors with a valid Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal “Install/Retrofitting” license and “Tank Tightness Testing” license, go to <http://webapps.sfm.illinois.gov/ustsearch/ContractorSearch.aspx> and search contractors under both of these modules. To find companies that are registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as “Registered Repair Companies” that have the necessary 3A Gasoline Pump Meter registration, go to [http://www.agr.state.il.us/regulation/inspection/WM\\_RR\\_Comp\\_Meters.pdf](http://www.agr.state.il.us/regulation/inspection/WM_RR_Comp_Meters.pdf).

**8. What paperwork or forms need to be completed and submitted?**

There are two types of forms that must be completed and submitted within defined time periods:

(1) A “**Notice of Intent to Decommission Stage II Vapor Recovery Equipment**” form is required to be submitted to the Illinois EPA at least 10 days prior to commencing decommissioning. This form will identify the GDF, the owner, operator, and contact persons, the date(s) of the decommissioning work, and each of the appropriate licensed and registered contractors that you are hiring to perform the work.

(2) After the decommissioning work is done, the “**Stage II Decommissioning Checklist**” form and testing results must be submitted within 30 days. This form contains the GDF information, a checklist for the contractor(s) to complete, and certification information for each contractor performing the decommissioning work. Both of these forms are posted at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us) in the Stage II Decommissioning section of the website.

**9. What if I change my decommissioning date or one or more of the contractors change after I submitted the “Notice of Intent to Decommission Stage II Vapor Recovery Equipment” form?**

If there are any changes to the date(s) or to the contractors performing the decommissioning work, please submit a revised form. For expediency, we suggest that a revised form be scanned and emailed to us at [epa.stage2@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.stage2@illinois.gov).

**10. What are the required procedures for the contractors to follow while performing the decommissioning work?**

The Illinois EPA is requiring that contractors follow the procedures relating to decommissioning Stage II systems outlined in the Petroleum Equipment Institute’s (PEI) “Recommended Practices for Installation and Testing of Vapor-Recovery Systems at Vehicle-Fueling Sites” (PEI/RP300-09), Section 14.6. The decommissioning procedures are also listed in Section 5 of the “**Stage II Decommissioning Checklist**” form.

**11. How long should the decommissioning work take?**

This question is best answered by your contractor(s). However, based on the feedback provided by a few Chicago area companies that work on infrastructure-related projects at gas stations, the average amount of time for decommissioning Stage II equipment at the typical GDF is about one day. This is dependent on the size of the GDF, the number of dispensers, and whether any unexpected issues are encountered.

**12. What can I expect during and after the contractors complete the decommissioning work?**

The contractors will seal vapor return lines in the dispensers and replace your nozzles, hoses, and other components with conventional “non-Stage II” equipment. In addition, the dispenser contractor will reprogram your fuel dispensers to the “no Stage II” settings. The testing contractor will also perform a tie tank test to make sure that no vapors are escaping the system.

**13. What paperwork will I need to maintain after decommissioning is completed?**

All documents related to decommissioning must be maintained and made available upon request for 5 years after the decommissioning work is completed. This includes, but is not limited to, copies of the two forms and the test results submitted to the Illinois

EPA, copies of the vendor work orders or contracts, decommissioning cost invoices, and other related paperwork.

**14. Who do I contact if I have program-related questions or if the contractors have questions during the decommissioning process?**

For questions relating to the “Notice of Intent to Decommission Stage II Vapor Recovery Equipment” form, the “Stage II Decommissioning Checklist” form, questions about the amended rules, or questions regarding the overall Stage II program, please call the Illinois EPA at 217-557-1441 (leave a message if needed) or email us at [epa.stage2@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.stage2@illinois.gov).

For questions regarding the fuel dispenser, which falls under the requirements of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, please contact Jim Stedelin ([james.stedelin@illinois.gov](mailto:james.stedelin@illinois.gov); 217-524-0470).

For questions concerning the piping, especially at or below the shear valve, connections to the underground tank, pressure decay or tie-tank (tank tightness) testing, and similar matters that fall under the rules of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, please contact Scott Johnson ([scott.johnson@illinois.gov](mailto:scott.johnson@illinois.gov); 217-720-8132), Fred Schneller ([fred.schneller@illinois.gov](mailto:fred.schneller@illinois.gov); 217-557-3131), or Shelly Bradley ([shelly.bradley@illinois.gov](mailto:shelly.bradley@illinois.gov); 217-785-7812).