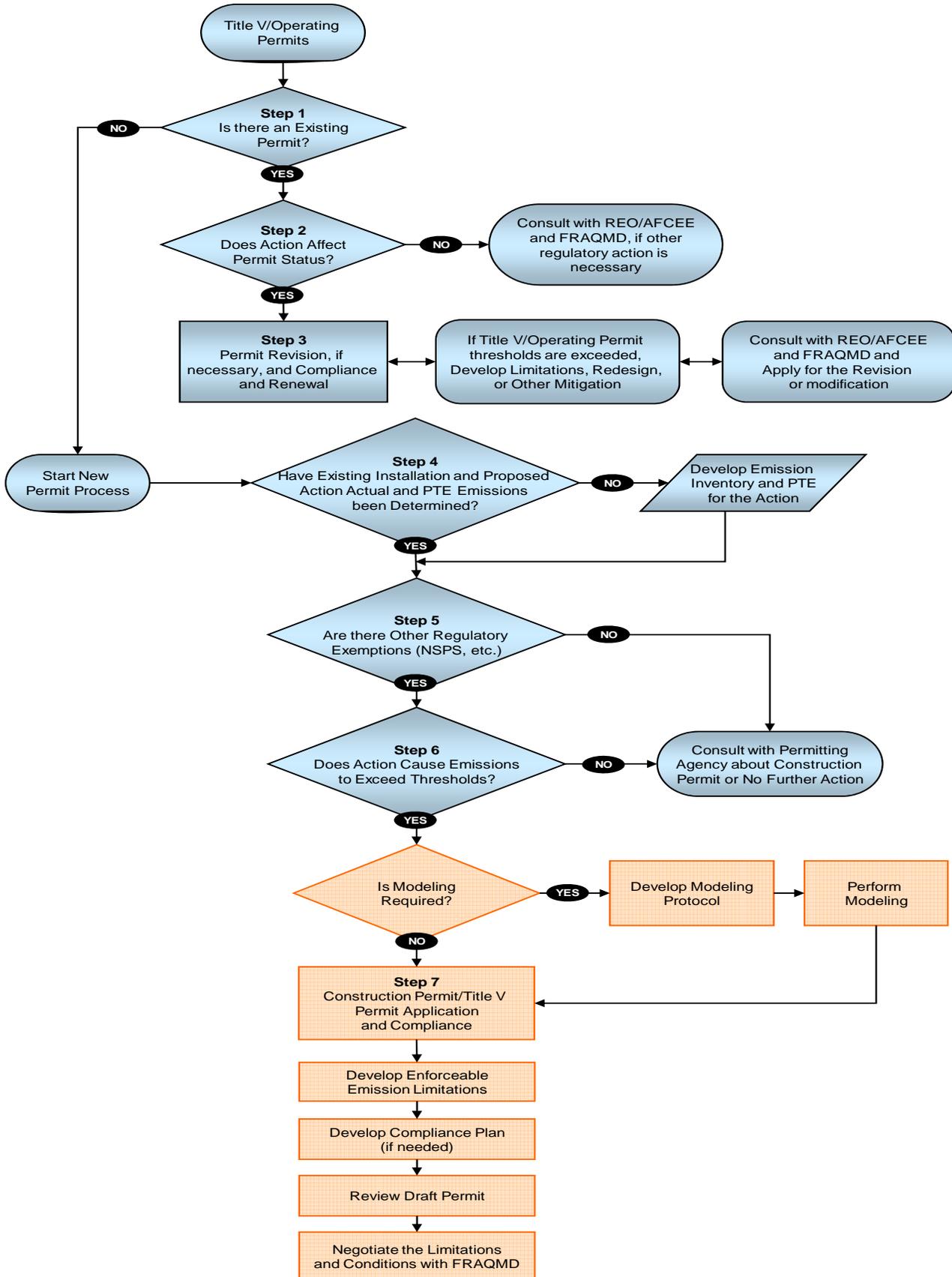


# Title V/Federal Operating Permit



## **Title V/Federal Operating Permit**

Title V is a federal program designed to standardize air quality permits and the permitting process for major sources of emissions across the country. The name "Title V" comes from Title V of the 1990 federal Clean Air Act Amendments which requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a national, operating permit program. Accordingly, EPA adopted regulations [Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 70 (Part 70)], which require states and local permitting authorities to develop and submit a federally enforceable operating permit programs for EPA approval.

For Beale Air Force Base the Title V program is administered by Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). The applicable regulation is Rule 10.3 and is called Federal Operating Permits. At this time FRAQMD does not have any regulatory framework for Synthetic Minor Permits. Currently, there are only 6 Title V permitted facilities in the District. (For more detailed permit process information see FRAQMD requirements on the agency internet site: [www.fraqmd.org/.](http://www.fraqmd.org/))

### **Step 1 – Is There an Existing Permit?**

The first step in determining whether an action is in compliance with air quality is to determine what the existing permit situation is. Does Beale operate under an existing permit framework, and if so, what is it? If a current Operating (Title V) Permit or Construction Permit is in place, the base staff has been monitoring compliance and making the required reports to the permitting agency. Currently, Beale has permits for several sources (service stations) in place.

Mobile source emissions (tailpipe) do not apply to these permitting processes.

More detailed information on the Title V Permit/Operating Permit Program can be found on the PROACT Fact Sheet:

<http://www.afcee.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-070925-012.pdf>

### **Step 2-- Does Action Affect Permit Status?**

If an existing permit is in place, it must be determine if the action is consistent with existing permit requirements. First, the emissions changes caused by the action need to be quantified and compared to permitting thresholds in the context of the existing emissions. Second, the emission changes must be compared to the permit thresholds and any limitations that exist. Of particular interest would be threshold limits for classification as a "major" source. The next step is to determine if the proposed actions affect existing permit conditions. If proposed actions don't have impact of the current permits, Beale still may have to consult with the FRAQMD and file, if appropriate, a permit revision or apply for a minor permit, such as a construction permit.

In most cases, only emission changes from stationary and fugitive sources need to be considered. On some site specific cases, such as AGE, mobile emissions are required to be quantified.

### **Step 3--Permit Revision, Compliance and Renewal**

If the emissions changes from the action causes emission thresholds or operating limitations to be exceeded for the existing permits or for an existing construction permit, Beale has several choices: (1) to mitigate the emission changes be reducing emissions from the proposed action or by reducing emissions from other sources at the facility or (2) engaging the REO or AFCEE to explore options and develop a path forward prior to discussing with FRAQMD. Once all the requirements have been identified and any revisions made, Beale needs to consult with FRAQMD and apply for the permit revision.

## **Title V/Federal Operating Permit**

Once Beale has satisfied the FRAQMD's requirements for dealing with the action, Beale returns to the process of being in compliance with the permit requirements. This includes paying any appropriate application fees, monitoring emissions and operating conditions and reporting to FRAQMD the results, as required. Also, Beale needs to monitor all activities and report promptly any upsets or equipment malfunctions that could affect air emissions. Lastly, Beale needs to monitor any other changes that could affect emissions for the action; and consult with the FRAQMD on any changes which could affect permit status.

Any important component to compliance requires keeping and maintaining good records. In the event of an inspection by FRAQMD, the records are one of the most important sources an inspector uses to determine compliance with the permit.

Since most permits are granted for a time certain, Beale needs to plan for the renewal of the permit. As a general rule, FRAQMD staff request 6 months of review time in advance of the Operating Permit deadline. A consultation with the agency is advisable prior to the submittal of the renewal application to ensure that the USAF is knowledgeable of any new agency requirements or changes.

### **Step 4 – Have Existing Installation and Proposed Action Actual and PTE Emissions been Determined?**

If Beale is not operating under any existing Operating Permit that applies to the action (answer to the question in Step 1 is "no"), then several steps need to be taken to determine if the operating permitting process applies to any action. First, determine if the action causes a change in emissions for Beale. Regulated emissions include criteria air pollutants, Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP), and ozone depleting substances. As in Step 1, mobile source emissions do not apply to the permit process and, therefore, they do not need to be considered any further. In order to properly put the emission changes into compliance context, an emission inventory is needed. If quantification of existing emissions from stationary and fugitive sources does not exist, an emissions inventory needs to be developed for the installation.

### **Step 5 – Are there Other Regulatory Exemptions?**

In addition to the above requirements, the following other regulatory requirements affect permit status of any specific action:

- If the action is regulated solely by 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart AAA or Title 40 CFR 61.145, it is exempt for Title V.
- If the action is subject to any NSPS standards or limitations, non major sources are temporarily deferred from submitting an operating permit until future notification from EPA.
- Any other exemptions listed in FRAQMD Rule 10.3 (C.2).

### **Step 6 – Does Action Cause Emissions to Exceed Thresholds?**

In order to determine if Operating Permits requirements apply, the emissions from the action are compared to threshold limits. For Beale Air Force Base these are:

Pollutant(s)	Threshold Limits (tons per year)
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## Title V/Federal Operating Permit

Regulated Criteria Pollutants	100
HAPS	10 per individual 25 per combined

If the total emissions (include emissions from the action) for the installation exceeds certain limits, the installation is classified as a “major source” and is therefore subject to Federal Operating Permit requirements. The installation is therefore major source must apply for an operating permit within 12 months after starting the operation for the new proposed action.

Currently, Beale is considered to be either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants under the national area designation program. However, the State of California has their own designation classification system; and currently designates the Beale area as nonattainment for ozone and PM<sub>10</sub>. (At this time, the State classifications do not apply to the thresholds for the Operating Permit; they only apply to emission offsets.)

If the action will not cause emissions to exceed threshold limits for Operating Permit status, then Beale should consult with the FRAQMD about whether a construction permit is required or no further action is required.

If the action causes the installation to be a major source, Beale may want to consider mitigation measures to reduce emissions of the action or other sources in the installation below the threshold levels. Additionally, if the action causes Beale to be a major source, dispersion modeling may be required by FRAQMD. If so, a modeling protocol, identifying the modeling approach and the input parameters needs to be prepared and submitted to FRAQMD for approval. The modeling needs to demonstrate that the action will not cause any ambient air quality standard or guideline to be exceeded.

### Step 7 – Construction/Operating Permit Application and Compliance

If the action causes Beale becomes a major source, Beale must apply for an operating permit. The action cannot be constructed or operated without the appropriate permits in place. Again, close coordination with FRAQMD is advised to minimize time delays and cost overruns. As a part of the permit application process a compliance plan and emission limitations may need to be developed.

Once the permit is granted, the Beale should follow the same approach as outlined in Step 3 to ensure compliance. This includes paying appropriate application fees, monitoring emissions and operating conditions and reporting to the agency the results, as required. Also, the Beale needs to monitor all activities and report promptly any upsets or equipment malfunctions that could affect air emissions. Lastly, Beale needs to monitor any other changes that could affect emissions for the installation; and consult with the agency on any changes which could affect permit status.

Any important component to compliance requires keeping and maintaining good records. In the event of an inspection by FRAQMD, the records are one of the most important sources an inspector uses to determine compliance with the permit.

Since most permits are granted for a time certain (operating permits are usually for 5 years), Beale needs to plan for the renewal of the permit. As a general rule, most agency staff request as least 12 months of review

## **Title V/Federal Operating Permit**

time in advance of the permit deadline. A consultation with the agency is advisable prior to the submittal of the renewal application to ensure that Beale is knowledgeable of any new requirements or changes.