

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

May 27, 1997

TO: All Air Quality Division Supervisors

FROM: Dennis M. Drake, Chief, Air Quality Division

SUBJECT: Permit Exemption Pursuant to Rule 279

Pursuant to Rule 279 of the Air Pollution Control rules promulgated under Article II, Chapter 1, Part 55, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, the following emission units with limited emissions are exempt from the requirement for a permit to install:

1. Portable blast-cleaning equipment used during construction to clean new water tanks or other new structures provided that the tank or structure is not located closer than the lesser of 750 feet or 5 times the height of the structure to the nearest residential, commercial or public facility and the abrasive media is a low dusting material which does not contain more than 5 percent crystalline silica.
2. A glycol dehydrator located at an oil and/or gas well site or central production facility where one or more of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Air emissions from the glycol dehydrator are controlled by a properly operating condenser, or by other control equipment of equivalent or better efficiency.
 - b. At sites or facilities that only process natural gas from either Antrim or Prairie du Chien Formations.

It must be noted that R336.1278 (Rule 278) can exclude certain significant or major sources from qualifying for the above cited exemptions(s). Additionally, exemption from the requirement for a permit to install does not negate the need to comply with other state and federal air quality regulations. For example, R336.1901 (Rule 901) prohibits air contaminants from causing certain injurious or unreasonable effects. It is the responsibility of the source owner and operator to assure that air contaminant sources operate in compliance. Questions about the applicability of these permit exemptions should be directed to our district offices.

DMD:JA:dlf