

## ***PLEDGE Frequently Asked Questions***

**What is PLEDGE?** Promoting Leadership in Environmental Decision-making to Grow our Economy. PLEDGE is a pilot program to ensure timely decisions on air permit to install applications with significant impact on Michigan's economy.

**Who can obtain a PLEDGE designation?** A project must have a strategic impact or importance on the State's economy, impact global competitiveness, demonstrate a timeliness of need, show innovation and willingness to seek out additional environmental benefits, and the applicant agrees to the terms of PLEDGE and is willing to accept the results.

**How does one apply for a PLEDGE designation?** A letter to the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is submitted which is then shared with the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).

**What should the letter include?** The letter must include a request to be designated a PLEDGE project, a project description, location, identification of the selection criteria to be considered, and an initial contact person. A signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be included. An MOU can be obtained from the Air Quality Division (AQD) website ([www.michigan.gov/deqair](http://www.michigan.gov/deqair)) or by contacting the AQD.

**Where is this request mailed?** The request is submitted to the DEQ Director at the following address: DEQ, Constitution Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor South, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933 or P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909. A copy of the request should also be mailed to the AQD Permit Section Chief at P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, MI 48909.

**Who makes the decision on whether a project qualifies as PLEDGE?** The PLEDGE designation is granted by the Director of the DEQ, in consultation with the DLEG.

**How is AQD notified of pending or final PLEDGE designations?** As soon as a project is being considered for PLEDGE, the DEQ Director and AQD Division Chief will notify the Permit Section Chief. Once the PLEDGE designation is granted, a notice is sent to AQD management via e-mail to begin the formal PLEDGE process. All relevant information used in the designation process is provided to AQD at this time.

**How will a company know if their project has received a PLEDGE designation?** A notice is mailed to the applicant by the AQD who will make initial contact to begin a dialogue.

**How does AQD identify the PLEDGE project review team?** A meeting is scheduled as soon as a designation is made to identify a project review team, team leader, and the AQD Public Liaison. The team leader is selected by the Permit Section Chief. The team leader will assemble the project review team. In consultation with the Permit Section Chief, the AQD Division Chief will select the AQD Public Liaison. A pre-application meeting is scheduled within one week of notification to the AQD that a project has a PLEDGE designation. This must occur at least 45 days prior to the application submittal.

**When does the Contact List get prepared?** The contact list must be submitted no later than the date of the pre-application meeting.

**What is the role of the Team Leader?** The Team Leader will ensure that all aspects of the review are completed. The Team Leader will assemble information, schedule all meetings, address policy and technical issues identified during the process, and report to the Permit Section Chief.

**What is the role of the AQD Public Liaison?** The AQD Public Liaison is the contact for all public inquiry during the PLEDGE process. The liaison will provide information and project developments to all interested parties.

**How can I find out more about PLEDGE?** Contact the Permit Section Chief, Ms. Lynn Fiedler, at 517-373-7087.