



## ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AIR AND RADIATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 15, 2026

Diana Zakrzwski, PE  
Air Permitting Division  
Bureau of Air Quality  
diana.zakrzwski@des.sc.gov

Re: Request for Regulatory Interpretation – Waste Burning Kiln Emission Limitations

Dear Ms. Zakrzwski,

This letter is in response to your August 1, 2023, request for a regulatory interpretation regarding the applicable emission limitations for kiln systems and the appropriate use of the kiln specific limit per 40 CFR Part 60, Subparts CCCC and DDDD.

According to your letter, the State of South Carolina has adopted and requires compliance with the model rule in Subpart DDDD. The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SC DES) therefore asks for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulatory interpretation of certain provisions in Subpart DDDD, Emissions Guidelines and Compliance Times for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units, specifically the applicable emission limitations used to determine compliance during performance tests and the use of the "kiln specific emission limit" that can be utilized to demonstrate continuous compliance. Your office asserts that Table 8 emission limitations are the applicable emission limits against which total kiln system emissions are measured during annual source testing per 40 CFR 60.2670(a) and that the kiln specific limit referenced in 40 CFR 60.2710(y) is to be used to demonstrate continuous compliance between the performance tests.

Please note the following excerpts from 40 CFR 60.2670(a) and 40 CFR 60.2710(y) (**bold added for emphasis**):

§ 60.2670 What **emission limitations** must I meet and by when?

- (a) **You must meet the emission limitations** for each CISWI, including bypass stack or vent, **specified in table 2 of this subpart or tables 6 through 9 of this subpart** [40 CFR 60 subpart DDDD] by the final compliance date under the approved state plan, federal plan, or delegation, as applicable. The emission limitations apply at all times the unit is operating including and not limited to startup, shutdown, or malfunction.

§ 60.2710 How do I **demonstrate continuous compliance** with the amended emission limitations and the operating limits?

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- (y) When there is an **alkali bypass and/or an in-line coal mill** that exhaust emissions through a separate stack(s), the **combined emissions are subject to the emission limits applicable to waste-burning kilns**. To determine **the kiln-specific emission limit for demonstrating compliance**, you must
- (1) **Calculate a kiln-specific emission limit** using equation 7  
[...]
  - (3) For purposes of determining the combined emissions from kilns equipped with an alkali bypass or that exhaust kiln gases to a coal mill that exhausts through a separate stack, **instead of installing a CEMS [Continuous Emissions Monitoring System] or PM CPMS [Particulate Matter Continuous Parameter Monitoring System] on the alkali bypass stack or in-line coal mill stack, the results of the initial and subsequent performance test can be used to demonstrate compliance** with the relevant emissions limit. A performance test must be conducted on an annual basis (no later than 13 calendar months following the previous performance test).

The EPA believes that your understanding of these provisions, as described in your letter, is correct. Specifically, regarding the applicable emission limits for waste-burning kilns with multiple stacks:

- The emission limitations applicable to waste-burning kilns are those set forth in Table 8 of 40 CFR subpart DDDD;
- The emission limitation applies to the combined emissions from all stacks (which in the example provided in the letter would include the main kiln stack (after exiting the raw mill), the precalciner coal mill (PCM) stack and the kiln coal mill (KCM) stack)).

With respect to the initial and subsequent performance test results for kilns with multiple stacks:

- Owners and operators would demonstrate compliance with the emission limits in Table 8 during each performance test by determining the emissions and flowrate from each stack during the performance test (*i.e.*, the combined emissions).

You are also correct that the “kiln-specific emission limit” in § 60.2710(y)(1) provides a mechanism for demonstrating continuous compliance for a multi-stack system by allowing continuous monitoring of emissions from the main kiln stack only in lieu of continuously monitoring emissions from all stacks. For example, a waste-burning kiln may have an alkali bypass and/or an in-line coal mill emitting through a separate stack(s), as mentioned in § 60.2710(y) and footnote 4 of Table 8, or other secondary stacks like the PCM and KCM mentioned in your request letter. Where a waste-burning kiln is required to install a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS), because the emission limitation in Table 8 applies to the combined emissions, this would require installing CEMS on each stack; alternatively, to alleviate the burden associated with installation of multiple CEMS, 40 CFR 2710(y)(3) states that the results of the initial and subsequent performance test can be used to demonstrate compliance in lieu of installing CEMS on the alkali bypass and coal mill exhausts (or other secondary stacks like the PCM and KCM mentioned in your request letter). A CEMS would still be required on the main kiln stack in this scenario. To demonstrate continuous compliance between the annual performance testing at all stacks, Equation 7 in 40 CFR 60.2710(y)(1) is used to set the “kiln-specific emission limit” that applies to emissions measured by CEMS at the main kiln stack. As noted in your letter, this “kiln-specific emission limit” is not used to demonstrate compliance during the annual performance test.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharyn Lie, of my staff at (202) 564-1092 or [Lie.Sharyn@epa.gov](mailto:Lie.Sharyn@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Aaron Szabo  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

cc: Sharyn Lie (OCAP)  
Gerri Garwood (OCAP)  
Amy Branning (OGC)  
Ryan Brown (Region 4)  
Jacob Carpenter (Region 4)