



Open Burning/Open Detention of Hazardous Waste in Virginia

Under the [Virginia Hazardous Waste Regulations](#) (VHWMR) open burning of hazardous waste is prohibited except for the open burning and detonation of waste explosives. Waste explosives include waste which has the potential to detonate and bulk military propellants which cannot be safely disposed of through other modes of treatment. This type of waste treatment requires a hazardous waste management permit.

During the permitting process, the facility must be able to demonstrate that open burning and/or open detonation (OB/OD) is appropriate based on site-specific safety, transportation hazard potential, offsite treatment options and feasibility of alternative technology considerations. In addition the facility must demonstrate compliance with the permitting standards contained in [40 CFR 264 Subpart X](#).

Subpart X refers to miscellaneous units, which are a unique category of hazardous waste management units, regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 264 Subpart X. These units do not fit within the definition of the more typical waste management units described in part 264 (containers, tanks, incinerators, etc.). In order to be permitted, Subpart X units must meet environmental performance standards, while other part 264 units must meet specific technology standards. The permittee must provide the DEQ with detailed information on unit design and potential environmental impacts.

Miscellaneous units (including OB/OD units) are required to be located, designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and closed in a manner that will prevent any unsafe releases into the:

- groundwater
- subsurface environment
- surface water
- wetlands
- soil surface
- air

This media-based or pathway-based approach ensures that any potential problems arising from these units are addressed and appropriate permit conditions based on this analysis are crafted to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment.

In Virginia, there are three facilities permitted to open burn and/or open detonate hazardous waste. Click on the links below to find out more about these facilities and the permit controls in place. All three permits are currently in the process of being evaluated for renewal. The current permits remain in force and effect until a determination is made on the renewal permit application.

- [Radford Army Ammunition Plant](#), Radford, VA
- [NASA Goddard Space Flight Facility](#), Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA
- [Naval Surface Warfare Dahlgren Center](#), Dahlgren Division, Dahlgren, VA