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## **Proposed Amendment to SB253\HB62:**

### **Add Section 7–239.5 as follows:**

#### **7–239.5. Time Limitations, Inspections, Methodology, and Pollution Monitoring.**

##### **(a) Time Limitations:**

(1) A permit issued under this subtitle for the treatment of chemical warfare materials by incineration at a research facility shall have a **time-limited** duration of no more than **five years**, after which the facility must submit a renewal application demonstrating continued compliance with the requirements of this subtitle, including any updated technologies and methods for treatment.

(2) If, at any point, the research facility fails to meet the conditions or demonstrates non-compliance with environmental safety standards, the Department may suspend or revoke the permit for the remainder of the time period, and no further incineration shall occur until re-approval is granted.

##### **(b) Periodic Inspections and Reporting:**

(1) The Department shall conduct **inspections** of the facility at least **annually**, or as deemed necessary based on risk assessments, to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements, including the proper functioning of incineration technologies, the monitoring of emissions, and the implementation of safety measures.

(2) **Independent Third-Party Inspections:** In addition to the Department's inspections, the Department shall **hire an independent third-party** inspector to conduct **periodic reviews** of the facility's operations, including verifying the adequacy of safety protocols, the effectiveness of pollution control measures, and the integrity of the monitoring data.

##### **(c) Pollution Checks and Methodology:**

(1) The facility shall be required to implement **continuous real-time pollution monitoring** for air, water, and soil to track emissions of toxic substances during incineration. Monitoring results shall be **reported quarterly** to the Department, along with an annual **independent audit** by a certified environmental health organization to assess the methodology and results.

(2) The facility shall develop and submit a **detailed pollution control methodology**, which includes methods for managing emissions, waste byproducts, and any potential contaminants. This methodology must be **approved by the Department** prior to incineration operations and must align with the latest scientific research and technology to mitigate environmental and public health risks.

**(d) Annual Reports and Public Access:**

(1) The research facility must submit an **annual report** detailing all operational data, including emission levels, safety checks, and compliance audits, to the Department and make it available for public inspection on the Department's website.

(2) The report must also include information on any incidents, near-misses, or potential risks identified during the year and outline steps taken to resolve these issues, along with any changes in facility operations or equipment.

**(e) Pollution Impact Reviews and Mitigation:**

(1) Every two years, an **environmental impact review** must be conducted to assess the effects of the facility's operations on local ecosystems, public health, and air quality. This review shall include a detailed pollution mitigation strategy that identifies any adverse impacts of the facility's incineration activities.

(2) Should the review indicate significant environmental or public health risks, the Department shall require the research facility to implement corrective actions, including but not limited to facility modifications, enhanced pollution control technologies, or adjustments to operational practices.

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This amendment includes time limitations on permits, regular inspections, pollution checks, detailed methodology for emission control, and public access to data to ensure transparency and accountability, along with consequences for non-compliance.