

## FACT SHEET

### PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS FROM AREA SOURCE IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES

#### ACTION

- On September 6, 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed air toxics standards for smaller emitting sources, called area sources, in the iron and steel foundries industries.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- The proposed rule reflects EPA's determination to minimize the impact on small entities by subcategorizing foundries based on production capacities. The proposed rule would require existing area source melting furnaces at the iron and steel foundries to comply with an emissions limit of 0.8 pounds of particulate matter (PM) or 0.06 pounds of total metals per ton of metal melted, if the foundry has a production capacity greater than a certain size threshold.
- EPA is requesting comments on two alternative size thresholds: 15,000 tons per year of metal melted and 10,000 tons per year of metal melted. All melting furnaces at new foundries would be subject to a PM limit of 0.1 pounds of PM or 0.008 pounds of total metal HAP per ton of metal melted. These emissions limits and management practices provide effective control of both PM and air toxics emissions.
- The proposed rule would reduce emissions of a number of toxic air pollutants such as lead, nickel, manganese, and chromium compounds, which are known or suspected to cause cancer, other serious health problems and environmental damage. Pollution prevention management practices would reduce emissions of other HAP such as mercury by preventing the use of certain materials as furnace charge. Management practices also would eliminate the use of methanol as a component of binder formulations.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.

#### HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- Existing area sources that would be affected by the rule are generally minimally controlled or uncontrolled. The proposed rule may require the installation of add-on

controls for some furnaces.

- This proposed rule would provide important improvements in protecting human health and the environment by reducing emissions of toxic air pollutants. EPA estimates total annual air toxic reductions at 61 or 67 tons per year, depending on the proposed production capacity size threshold. PM emissions would be reduced by about 905 or 1,074 tons per year.
- Depending on the production capacity size threshold, the proposed rule would have a total of \$34 or \$47 million impact on existing area sources.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Each of the source categories included in today’s proposed rule are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The proposed air toxics rule is being developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and is being issued at this time in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every 6 months.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the notice, go to EPA’s Worldwide Web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>

- Today’s proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center’s Public Reading Room.
  - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0526.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0526 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
  - E-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov))
  - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
  - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Conrad Chin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1512 or [chin.conrad@epa.gov](mailto:chin.conrad@epa.gov).