

March 1, 1994

**FACT SHEET**

**FINAL AIR TOXICS GENERAL PROVISIONS RULE**

**WHY GENERAL PROVISIONS?**

- o The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed the General Provisions rule to establish a consistent set of requirements and increase the clarity and certainty for industries and other sources that the Agency will regulate under the air toxic provisions of the Clean Air Act over the next several years.
- o The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require EPA to issue standards over a 10 year period regulating emissions of 189 toxic air pollutants from various industries and other sources.
- o In the course of planning for and developing these standards to meet the requirements of the 1990 Amendments, EPA determined that it would issue a "General Provisions" rule to address general information and requirements that would apply to all of these air toxics rules. [For example, many of the requirements in the General Provisions rule will apply to those sources affected by the chemical manufacturing ("HON") final rule also being issued today.]
- o The General Provisions rule creates the technical and administrative framework for implementing the air toxics requirements of the Act. It also serves as the primary vehicle for informing owners and operators of their basic compliance responsibilities and of EPA's administrative and enforcement responsibilities under the Act. The rule also eliminates the need for EPA to repeat general information and requirements in future air toxics rules.
- o EPA issued the proposed General Provision rule on August 11, 1993. The Agency received public comment, made adjustments to the rule based on those comments and is issuing the rule in final form today. The final rule will appear in the Federal Register in the next several weeks.



## WHAT DOES THE GENERAL PROVISIONS RULE REQUIRE?

- o The General Provisions rule will apply to all sources that will be regulated under the air toxics standards EPA issues under the Clean Air Act. However, when appropriate, EPA can override or modify the General Provisions requirements in individual air toxics rules it issues in the future.
- o The General Provisions include generic information, such as definitions of terms and sections that spell out EPA's administrative responsibilities. The rule also specifies compliance dates and outlines the compliance responsibilities of owners or operators who are subject to an air toxic emission standard or other requirement.
- o Once a source becomes subject to a certain EPA-issued air toxics rule, the General Provisions rule will require applications for approval of new construction and reconstruction, as well as performance testing, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.
- o The rule also provides flexibility to industry and lessens the compliance burden by allowing certain qualified sources to reduce the frequency of testing and reporting. The rule also encourages technological innovation by allowing alternative means of compliance.
- o The General Provisions rule also cross-references and helps coordinate the various air toxics, operating permit and enforcement requirements found in different sections of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- o Until (and after) the General Provisions rule appears in the Federal Register, anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act board of EPA's electronic TTN bulletin board. For further information about how to access the board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the rule, contact Shirley Tabler on (919) 541-5256 or Michele Dubow on (919) 541-3803.