

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend the Part 63 General Provisions to provide regulatory relief, where appropriate, to facilities that use pollution prevention to achieve and maintain toxic air pollutant emission reductions equivalent to, or better than, the maximum level of control that is achievable. This level of control is commonly known as MACT.
- ! Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants (HAP), are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- ! Today's proposed amendments would encourage and promote the use of pollution prevention technology, which is EPA's strategy of first choice in reducing air toxics emissions.
- ! Today's proposed amendments are the product of consultations with State and local agencies as well as industry stakeholders.
- ! EPA will accept public comment on the proposed amendments through 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- ! The national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) reduce emissions of many toxic air pollutants, which cause a wide variety of adverse health and environmental effects. Short-term exposure to some air toxics can cause symptoms ranging from irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, all the way to death in cases of extreme exposure. Long-term exposures can cause chronic irritation of sensitive tissues as well as carcinogenic, reproductive, and developmental effects.
- ! No increase in emissions or health risk would occur as a result of the proposed amendments, and in some cases, emissions and associated health risks would be reduced.

WHAT THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRE

- ! Facilities subject to a NESHAP that implement pollution prevention to reduce air toxics emissions to at least the level of MACT may apply for alternative compliance requirements.

- ! Such facilities have two options under the proposed amendments:
- ▶ Facilities that implement pollution prevention to eliminate all air toxics emissions subject to the regulation could apply to no longer be subject to that regulation.
 - ▶ Facilities that implement pollution prevention to reduce air toxics emissions to at least the level required by the regulation could apply for pollution prevention alternative requirements. Alternative compliance requirements could include monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting, and/or other requirements consistent with the pollution prevention measures implemented by the facility. They could not include alternative emission limits.
- ! Under either option, if the facility failed to maintain the approved pollution prevention measures, the original NESHAP requirements would apply immediately.

COST OF THE PROPOSED RULE

- ! No additional costs are associated with the proposed amendments. For facilities that qualify for pollution prevention alternative requirements, the cost associated with monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping could be reduced.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy of the proposed amendments, go to “Recent Actions” on EPA’s OAR Policy and Guidance Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- ! For further information about the proposal, contact Steve Fruh of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2837 or fruh.steve@epa.gov.
- ! By U.S. Postal Service, send comments on the proposed amendments (in duplicate, if possible) to: Part 63 General Provisions Docket, EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. EPA West, Mailcode 6102T, Room B-108, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID OAR-2002-0044, Category VI. Deliver comments in person or by courier (in duplicate, if possible) to: EPA Docket Center, Room B-108, U.S. EPA West, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, Attention Docket ID OAR-2002-0044, Category VI.
- ! Comments and data may also be submitted by electronic mail (e-mail) to: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect® file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket ID OAR-2002-0044). Electronic comments may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Do not submit

confidential business information (CBI) by e-mail. See the *Federal Register* notice for more information on how to handle CBI.

- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation home page, <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>, contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues.