

FACT SHEET

COAL PREPARATION AND PROCESSING PLANTS NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS)

ACTION

- On September 25, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised emissions control requirements for new coal preparation and processing plants. These new performance standards will further reduce emissions at new coal preparation and processing plants that process more than 200 tons of coal per day.
- Coal preparation and processing plants break, crush, screen, clean and/or use heat to dry coal at coal mines, power plants, cement plants, coke manufacturing facilities, and industrial facilities.
- The revisions to these standards, known as new source performance standards (NSPS), will apply to new, modified, and reconstructed coal preparation and processing plants and reflect improvements in air emission control technologies that have been developed since the original NSPS for these sources were issued in 1976.
- This final action strengthens the particulate matter (PM) emissions and opacity limits included in the existing NSPS for thermal dryers, pneumatic coal-cleaning equipment, and coal-handling equipment.
- It also will expand the applicability of the thermal dryer standards so that they will apply to both direct contact and indirect contact thermal dryers drying all coal ranks and to pneumatic coal-cleaning equipment cleaning all coal ranks.
- In addition, this final action will establish a sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission limit and a combined nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions limit for thermal dryers.
- Finally, this action will establish work practice standards to control coal dust emissions from open storage piles at coal preparation and processing plants.
- EPA expects that owners and operators of affected coal preparation and processing plants will comply with the revised limits of the NSPS through the installation of control equipment or through the modification of current work practices.
- EPA estimates that 22 new coal preparation and processing plants consisting of coal-handling equipment (i.e., coal processing and conveying equipment, coal storage systems, coal transfer and loading systems, and open storage piles) will be built over the next five years and would be subject to these revised standards.

HEALTH/ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- New coal preparation and processing plants will need to install controls or utilize work practices to meet the amended limits. EPA estimates that this final rule will reduce 7,600 tons per year of PM emissions from new coal-handling equipment.
- Should any new thermal dryers become subject to the final rule, emissions of PM, SO₂, NO_x, and CO would be reduced.

COST

- EPA estimates total nationwide annual costs of \$7.9 million when the revised standards are fully implemented. Included in these costs are costs of control technology necessary to meet the emission standards, and costs associated with the testing, monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the final rule.
- Because some new coal preparation and processing plants will be required to install similar controls to meet the requirements included in this final rule and under the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program and state permitting requirements, the estimated costs and emission reductions may not be entirely attributable to the final rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to issue NSPS for coal preparation and processing plants that consider emission control technologies available and costs of control. Further, the CAA requires EPA to review the standards at least every eight years, and revise them as appropriate.
- Since EPA originally issued the NSPS for coal preparation plants in 1976, technological advances have led to improvements in:
 - Emission controls (including fabric filters, chemical dust suppressants, fogging systems, and passive enclosure dust control systems (PECS)) used to control PM (and opacity) emissions, and
 - Emission controls used to control SO₂, NO_x, and CO emissions from thermal dryers.
- This final rule will assure that all new, modified, and reconstructed coal preparation and processing plants meet the same level of emission controls currently achieved at recently constructed facilities.
- As part of a consent decree with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, et.al, EPA agreed to review the 1976 standards of performance for Coal Preparation Plants and complete needed amendments by April 2009. After reviewing comments on the April 2008 proposed amendments, EPA requested a modification to the original consent agreement.

It requires proposed supplemental amendments by May 15, 2009 and final amendments by September 26, 2009.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this final rule from EPA's web site, go to Recent Actions at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.
- Today's action 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 at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 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-2008-0260.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Ms. Mary Johnson at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5025.
- For other combustion-related regulations, visit EPA's Combustion Related Rules page at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/combust/list.html>.