

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR EIGHT SOURCE CATEGORIES

ACTION

- On December 6, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to retain without modification four air toxics rules covering eight types of production process. The air toxics standards, the promulgation date for each standard, and source categories regulated by the standards and affected by this proposal are:
 - Group I Polymers and Resins (09/05/96): Polysulfide Rubber Production, Ethylene Propylene Rubber Production, Butyl Rubber Production, and Neoprene Production
 - Epoxy Resins Production and Non-nylon Polyamides Production (03/08/95): Epoxy Resins Production, Non-nylon Polyamides Production
 - Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology (06/29/99): Acetal Resins Production
 - Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology (06/29/99): Hydrogen Fluoride Production
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for these eight industries are four of 96 air toxic standards called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.
- When EPA promulgated these four standards, the Agency projected that they would reduce air toxic emissions from 20 facilities in eight source categories by approximately 3,800 tons per year from process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater systems, transfer racks, and leaks from kilns. This represents an approximately 54 percent reduction from emissions levels before the MACT requirements took effect.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final MACT standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- EPA must also review and revise MACT standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes, and control technologies since the standards were issued.
- We are proposing no further action at this time to revise the standards.
- The risk assessment found that after application of the MACT standards the chronic cancer risks are below one in one million, and no further cancer risk reduction is required. The analysis also found that non-cancer and acute risks to humans, as well as ecological effects from these facilities are low enough that further controls are not warranted.

- The technology assessment did not identify any advancements in practices, processes, and control technology.
- EPA concludes that the existing MACT standards effectively address air toxic emissions for all eight industries and that no additional controls are necessary.
- EPA will accept comments on the proposal for 60 days following publication of the proposal in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or “source category”). These MACT standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within 8 years of setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112(f) directs EPA to assess the remaining health risks from each source category to determine whether the MACT standards protect public health with an ample margin of safety and protect against adverse environmental effects. This second phase is a “risk-based” approach called residual risk. Here, EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every 8 years after setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112 (d)(6) requires that EPA review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site at the following address: 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 hard copy 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 Ave., 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-2007-0211.

- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0211 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - o Federal eRulemaking Portal (www.regulations.gov),
 - o e-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov),
 - o Mail (EPA Docket Center (6102T), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
 - o Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

- For additional information contact Mary Tom Kissell of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-4516 or by e-mail at kissell.mary@epa.gov.