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FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FROM PRIMARY LEAD SMELTERS

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from primary lead smelters. Hazardous air pollutants are also known as air toxics; these are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects such as birth defects or reproductive effects.
- Primary lead smelters process lead to produce lead metal. The majority of the lead that is produced is used to manufacture lead-acid batteries. In these lead manufacturing processes, a variety of hazardous air pollutants can be released to the atmosphere. EPA is proposing to reduce these releases.
- Note that this action does not apply to secondary lead smelters, lead remelters, or lead refiners. EPA is regulating these industries in other actions.
- EPA developed this proposal through participation with the industry representatives and representatives of the States of Missouri and Montana.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF THIS ACTION?

- EPA's proposed rule sets emission limits for lead compounds released from primary lead smelters. Lead compounds are used as a surrogate for all metallic hazardous air pollutants being emitted from these facilities. Control devices that are used to reduce emissions of lead compounds will also remove other metallic hazardous air pollutants with essentially the same efficiency. Therefore, in controlling emissions of lead compounds, facilities can also control emissions of other metallic hazardous air pollutants.
- The proposed levels of control are based on existing State emission limits for lead. EPA is not requiring any additional emission controls in these proposed standards. Therefore, EPA is not able to quantify the emission reduction or other environmental benefits that may result from this rulemaking. However, EPA does anticipate that improved baghouse operation and maintenance procedures coupled with continuous bag leak detection may result in significant reductions in emissions of lead compounds and other metal hazardous air pollutants.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (the Act), the EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactum from the list.) On July 16, 1992, the EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of major sources, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- EPA's list of source categories to be regulated includes primary lead smelting. In this action, EPA is issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking for primary lead smelters and is soliciting comments on the proposed rule.

WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY EPA'S PROPOSED RULE?

- There are three primary lead smelters operating in the United States that would be affected by this proposed rule. They are:
 - An ASARCO Inc. facility located in Glover, Missouri;
 - An ASARCO Inc. facility located in East Helena, Montana; and
 - A Doe Run Company facility located in Herculaneum, Missouri.
- All three facilities are "major" sources of metallic hazardous air pollutants including compounds of lead, arsenic, antimony, and cadmium. A "major" source is a stationary source that has the potential to emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed hazardous air pollutant, or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of hazardous air pollutants.
- Any new primary lead smelters would also be affected by the proposed rule.
- EPA has determined that none of the existing facilities are small businesses.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PROPOSED ACTION?

- Each of the three primary lead smelters are subject to federally enforceable State emission limitations and work practice requirements for the control of lead. EPA has reviewed the proposed State requirements and control strategies for each of the three facilities, and has determined that the State emission limits and work practice requirements represent the maximum achievable control technology for this industry. Therefore, EPA's goal in this rule making is to develop emission limitations compatible with the existing State requirements.
- This proposal also requires primary smelters to develop and operate according to a Standard Operating Procedure Manual in order to control emissions of fugitive dust and

to properly operate and maintain baghouses.

HOW DOES EPA'S PROPOSAL PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?

- This rule establishes a "plant wide" emission limit for lead compounds. The facilities will have the flexibility to determine how and to what extent each source is controlled in order to achieve the emission limit.
- Plants will also have the option to offset increases in emissions at some regulated sources by decreasing emissions at others.

HOW MUCH WOULD EPA'S PROPOSED RULE COST?

- EPA expects cost and economic impacts to be minimal. The only costs associated with the proposed standards are those required to perform compliance assurance activities such as performance testing, monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping.
- EPA does not expect the price or supply of refined lead for consumers to change as a result of this rule.

NEXT STEPS

- After analyzing public comments on this proposal, EPA intends to issue the final rule for primary lead smelters in September 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from the EPA's web site on the Internet under recent actions at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>). For further information about the proposal, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).