

May 31, 1994

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR THE SECONDARY LEAD SMELTER INDUSTRY

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final rule to reduce air toxics emissions from secondary lead smelters. Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- ◆ Secondary lead smelters produce lead from scrap and provide the primary means for recycling lead-acid automotive batteries. Approximately 95% of all lead-acid batteries are recycled at secondary lead smelters.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ EPA's final rule will reduce emissions of air toxics, including 1,3-butadiene---a human carcinogen, by about 1,400 tons annually, representing a 67 percent reduction from current levels.
- ◆ EPA's rule will also reduce emissions of other pollutants, including particulate matter (e.g. soot, dust), and carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause adverse health effects, including fatigue, nausea and respiratory problems; carbon monoxide emissions will be reduced by 88,000 tons annually. Particulate matter emissions will be reduced by 150 tons annually. Exposure to particulate matter can cause serious respiratory problems and can even lead to premature deaths.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL RULE?

- ◆ The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 requires EPA to regulate emissions of 189 listed toxic air pollutants. EPA's final standard will apply to both major and area sources that comprise the Secondary Lead Smelter Industry. Major sources are defined as those sources that emit 10 tons annually of one or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants. Area sources are defined as those sources that emit hazardous air pollutants in quantities less than that of major sources.
- ◆ The Secondary Lead Smelter Industry is comprised of 23 smelters (15 major sources and 8 area sources) located in 13 States. The final rule requires the application of maximum

achievable control technology (MACT) for these sources as defined by the Clean Air Act.

WHAT DOES THE FINAL RULE REQUIRE?

- ◆ Secondary lead smelters perform three basic unit operations: battery breaking, smelting, and refining and alloying. Battery breaking is accomplished by either crushing or cutting battery cases into pieces. The plastic, spent acid, and leaded materials are then separated. Lead bearing materials are processed in one of three types of smelting furnaces: blast, reverberatory, or rotary. Molten lead from these furnaces is further processed in refining kettles and subsequently cast into molds. The waste stream from the furnaces, called slag, is either returned to the primary smelting furnace or treated in a separate furnace dedicated to slag cleaning to recover additional lead.
- ◆ There are three types of emission sources at secondary lead facilities. The regulation addresses each of these emissions points--process sources, process fugitive sources, and fugitive dust sources.
- ◆ The monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements are outlined in the final rule.

HOW MUCH WILL THE RULE COST?

- ◆ The nationwide annual cost of the rule will be about \$2.0 million. The total capital cost of the rule will be about \$4.0 million. The capacity of the industry to recycle lead-acid batteries will not be adversely affected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board of EPA's electronic Technology Transfer Network by calling (919) 541-5742 (look under "Recently Signed Rules"). For further information about how to access the board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the rule, contact Phil Mulrine at (919) 541-5289.

**FACILITIES NATIONWIDE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL SECONDARY LEAD
SMELTER AIR TOXICS REGULATION**

1. Sanders Lead Co. - Troy, Alabama
2. GNB, Inc. - Vernon, California
3. RSR Corp. - City of Industry, California
4. Gulf Coast Recycling, Inc. - Tampa, Florida
5. GNB, Inc. - Columbus, Georgia
6. Exide Corp. - Muncie, Indiana
7. Refined Metals Corp. - Beech Grove, Indiana
8. RSR Corp. - Indianapolis, Indiana
9. Delatte Metals - Ponchatoula, Louisiana
10. Schuylkill Metals Corp. - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
11. Gopher Smelting & Refining, Inc. - Eagan, Minnesota
12. Doe Run Co. - Boss, Missouri
13. Schuylkill Metals Corp. - Forest City, Missouri
14. RSR Corp. - Middletown, New York
15. Master Metals, Inc. - Cleveland, Ohio
16. East Penn Manufacturing Co. - Lyon Station, Pennsylvania
17. Exide Corp. - Reading, Pennsylvania
18. General Smelting & Refining Co. - College Grove, Tennessee
19. Refined Metals Corp. - Memphis, Tennessee
20. GNB, Inc. - Frisco, Texas
21. Tejas Resources, Inc. - Terrell, Texas
22. PBX, Inc. - Norwalk, Ohio
23. Ross Metals - Rossville, Tennessee

