

9-24-01

FACT SHEET

TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO NESHAP FOR NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending its final rule for emissions of toxic air pollutants from natural gas transmission and storage facilities. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known to cause cancer and other serious health effects.
- ! Although this technical correction clarifies the rule for facility owners and regulatory agencies, it does not change the emission control requirements or the impact of the rule.

SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL CORRECTION

- ! This technical correction reinstates language in the applicability section of the regulation. that was inadvertently deleted in previous technical corrections. The reinstated language makes it clear that the rule only applies to natural gas transmission and storage facilities that emit enough toxic air pollutants to be defined as a "major" source under the Clean Air Act.
- ! A major source of air toxics emissions is one with the potential to emit greater than 10 tons per year of any one air toxic or 25 tons per year of any combination of air toxics.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Clean Air Act also required EPA to identify source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources, the Act requires EPA to develop a list of industries, known as source categories, that emit one or more of the 188 listed air toxics.
- ! EPA's published list of source categories includes natural gas transmission and storage facilities.
- ! On June 17, 1999, the EPA, under authority of the Clean Air Act, issued a final rule that controls emissions of air toxics from new and existing natural gas transmission and storage facilities. The rule applies to major sources of air toxics only.
- ! On June 29, 2001, the EPA issued a technical corrections action to correct errors and clarify Agency intent within the final rule.
- ! The natural gas transmission and storage rule requires 95 percent control of emissions from new

and existing glycol dehydration units located at major sources. Glycol dehydration is a process that removes unwanted moisture from natural gas prior to compression and transportation within a pipeline.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- ! EPA's final rule for natural gas transmission and storage facilities reduces emissions of air toxics by approximately 430 tons per year (an 18 percent reduction over what year?).
- ! Today's technical correction will not change the costs or emission reductions of the final rule issued in June 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ! Interested parties can download the technical corrections from EPA's web site on the Internet under recent actions at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>. For further information on the technical corrections, contact Mr. Greg Nizich of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3078, or nizich.greg@epa.gov.
- ! 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 home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.