

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED FEDERAL PLAN FOR EXISTING HOSPITAL/MEDICAL/INFECTIOUS WASTE INCINERATORS

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a Federal plan for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerator(s) (HMIWI) constructed on or before June 20, 1996. This regulation would implement the HMIWI Emission Guidelines that EPA issued on September 15, 1997.
- The proposed HMIWI Federal plan would cover those emissions sources for which a State or Tribal agency does not have an EPA-approved emissions control plan in effect by September 15, 1999. The Federal plan no longer applies when a State plan is approved.
- For most States, the Federal plan is a gap filling measure to ensure that States and sources make progress toward compliance with the Emissions Guidelines while States get their emissions control plans approved by EPA and in place in time to meet the final statutory compliance date of September 15, 1999. However, for the majority of HMIWI located on Indian Country and on U.S. Territories, the Federal plan will be the sole implementing authority compelling these sources to meet this deadline.

WHICH HMIWI WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE PROPOSED FEDERAL PLAN?

- Owners or operators of existing HMIWI located in States, Tribes, or U.S. Territories that do not have an approved plan in effect by September 15, 1999 would be subject to this proposed HMIWI Federal plan.
- As of the date of this proposal, EPA has received final State plans from New York, Delaware, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, North Dakota, Montana, and Colorado. The EPA has received draft State plans from Puerto Rico, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, West Virginia, Alabama, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Washington.
- ! Other States are making significant progress on their State plans and EPA expects many State plans to be approved before the Federal plan is final. EPA anticipates letters of negative declaration (i.e., letters stating that there are no HMIWI in the State) from New Mexico and Oregon. EPA is not aware of any Indian tribes that are developing Tribal plans.

BACKGROUND

- EPA issued the HMIWI Emission Guidelines in 1997 under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act (Act). The Emission Guidelines will significantly reduce emissions of nine pollutants.

Among several hazardous air pollutants, these Guidelines are predicted to reduce hydrogen chloride emissions from HMIWI by 98 percent, dioxin/furans by about 96 percent, mercury by 95 percent, and particulate matter by about 90 percent. Some of these pollutants are considered to be carcinogens and, at sufficient concentrations, can cause toxic effects following exposure.

- States with existing HMIWI subject to the Emission Guidelines were required under section 129 of the Act to submit to EPA plans to implement and enforce the HMIWI Emission Guidelines within 1 year after EPA issued the Guidelines, or, September 15, 1998. Tribes may submit, but are not required to submit, Tribal plans to implement the Emission Guidelines.
- If a State with existing HMIWI does not submit an approvable plan to EPA within 2 years after EPA issued the HMIWI Emission Guidelines (i.e. by September 15, 1999), EPA is required under the Act to develop, implement, and enforce a Federal plan for HMIWI in that State. The Federal plan would also apply to HMIWI in Tribal areas where there is no approved Tribal plan in effect by September 15, 1999.
- Once adopted, the HMIWI Federal plan will fulfill EPA's obligation under the Act to establish emission limits and other requirements for HMIWI in States and territories that do not have approved plans. The Federal plan will apply to HMIWI until the State or Tribe in which the HMIWI is located has an approved plan in effect.
- The proposed Federal plan contains the same elements that State plans are required to contain, including source and emission inventories, emission limits, testing, monitoring, and reporting requirements, as well as compliance schedules including increments of progress.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- Implementation of the HMIWI Emission Guidelines through the Federal and State plans is expected to reduce air emissions from existing HMIWI as follows:

Nationwide Emission Reduction:								
dioxin/ furan, g/yr	PM, Mg/yr	CO, Mg/yr	HCl, Mg/yr	SO ₂ , Mg/yr	NO _x , Mg/yr	Pb, Mg/yr	Cd, Mg/yr	Hg, Mg/yr
6,900 to 7,000	820 to 870	340 to 380	5,600	≤74	≤350	8.6 to 9.4	0.91 to 1.0	13.5 to 13.8

- The Federal plan begins the compliance schedule so that HMIWI can meet the final compliance date of September 15, 2002 to achieve the desired emission reductions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the proposed HMIWI Federal plan from the Unified Air Toxics Website web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/129/hmiwi/rihmiwi.html>. The 1997 State implementation guidance document can also be downloaded from the web site. For further information about the proposed HMIWI Federal plan, contact Mr. Lalit Banker of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5420. For further information about the HMIWI final Emission Guidelines, contact Mr. Rick Copland of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5265.
- For more information on other air pollution programs and issues, the Office of Air and Radiation homepage can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.