

Proposed Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for the Pulp and Paper Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources: Fact Sheet

ACTION

- On December 13, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Pulp and Paper Combustion Sources.
- This will help ensure compliance with existing emission limits and reduce the likelihood of exceedances through increased frequency of emissions testing, updated monitoring requirements, and updated recordkeeping and reporting.
- The Pulp and Paper Combustion Sources NESHAP, subpart MM, was finalized in January 2001, and amended in 2003.
- Following a residual risk review and technology review, the EPA is proposing to:
 - Reduce opacity from 35 percent to 20 percent and the monitoring allowance from 6 percent to 2 percent for recovery furnaces.
 - Reduce the opacity monitoring allowance from 6 percent to 1 percent for lime kilns.
 - Add electronic reporting requirements for semiannual compliance reports.
 - Update ongoing monitoring and testing requirements for emission monitoring systems.
 - Require repeating stack testing and electronic reporting of results.
 - Remove startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM) provisions.
- EPA is proposing these amendments to improve the effectiveness of the rule. Because risks were found to be acceptable, EPA is not proposing any specific amendment to reduce residual risk.
- EPA will accept comment on these proposed amendments for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

RESIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final air toxics standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- After assessing the risk from exposure to toxic air emissions from pulp and paper combustion source facilities, the EPA proposes that the emission standards provide an acceptable level of risk with an ample margin of safety to protect public health.
- The maximum individual cancer risk (MIR) for the source category is estimated to be 4-in-1 million.
- The risks are low and well within what is considered acceptable.

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to assess the review and revise air toxics standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since the EPA issued the standards.
- The technology assessment did not identify any practices, processes or control technologies that were not already required by the combustion source NESHAP or considered in its development. The EPA also did not identify any major improvements to those practices, processes, or control technologies that could be transferred and applied to this source category.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from categories of industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where the 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 best-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within eight years of setting the MACT standards, the Clean Air Act directs the 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, the EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every eight years after setting the MACT standards, the Clean Air Act requires that the EPA review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention.
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for this source category is one of 96 air toxic standards (MACT) 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.

HOW TO COMMENT

- The EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0741 may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to www.regulations.gov and follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
 - Send comments by email to a-and-r- Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2014-0741.
 - Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744, Attention Docket ID. No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014- 0741.
 - Mail your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center,

- Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID. No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0741.
- Deliver comments in person to: EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, D.C. Note: In person deliveries (including courier deliveries) are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation. Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the proposed rule notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/kraft-soda-sulfite-and-stand-alone-semichemical-pulp-mills-mact-ii>
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, 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- 2014-0741.
- For further technical information about the rule contact Dr. Kelley Spence, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-3158 or spence.kelley@epa.gov.