

FACT SHEET

Proposed Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for Polyvinyl Chloride and Copolymers Production Facilities

ACTION

- On October 16, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to amend the 2012 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Polyvinyl Chloride and Copolymers (PVC) Production.
- The proposed amendments represent EPA's response to four reconsideration petitions from environmental groups and industry.
- With this proposed action, EPA is proposing:
 - Revisions to the process vent subcategory definitions and major source process vent emission limits.
 - Amendments to the major source vinyl chloride wastewater emission limits and removal of the total non-vinyl chloride organic HAP (TOHAP) emission limits by justifying vinyl chloride as a surrogate.
 - Addition of an alternative standard after the resin stripper for major and area sources.
 - Clarification of pressure vessel leak requirements and addition of vapor balancing as a method to control emissions from storage vessels.
- EPA is proposing technical corrections to further clarify the 2012 NESHAP and to remove all of the regulatory affirmative defense provisions.
- The proposed amendments would continue to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) by an estimated 34 tons per year.
- EPA estimates these amendments would have an initial savings of \$0.033 million and annual costs of about \$0.39 million per year.
- EPA will accept comment on the proposed amendments for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- The PVC Production source category includes facilities that manufacture PVC resins used to make numerous commercial and industrial products at other manufacturing facilities.
- In 2007, EPA published air toxics standards for area source PVC Production facilities and amended these standards in 2012. In 2012, EPA published air toxic standards for major source PVC Production facilities.
- Following the 2012 final rules, EPA received four reconsideration petitions from environmental groups and industry.

- In September 2012, EPA granted reconsideration of the process vent, process wastewater and stripped resin emission limits.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0037, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Send comments by email to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0037.
- Out of an abundance of caution for members of the public and our staff, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room are closed to the public, with limited exceptions, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Our Docket Center staff will continue to provide remote customer service via email, phone and webform. We encourage the public to submit comments via <https://www.regulations.gov/> or email, as there will be a delay in processing mail and faxes. For further information on EPA Docket Center services, please visit us online at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the proposed rule notice from EPA's web site at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/polyvinyl-chloride-and-copolymers-production-national-emission-0>.
- This proposed action and other background information are available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.
 - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0037.
- For further technical information about the proposed rule, contact Jennifer Caparoso, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, at (919) 541-4063 or caparoso.jennifer@epa.gov.