

# Fact Sheet

## Amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant from Off-Site Waste and Recovery Operations

### Today's Action

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a direct final rule that amends and clarifies the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for off-site waste and recovery operations under 40 CFR 63 subpart DD. Hazardous air pollutants (HAP), otherwise known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other adverse health or environmental effects.
- Entities potentially regulated by this rule are businesses that receive waste from off site and operate hazardous waste treatment storage and disposal facilities, wastewater treatment facilities and hazardous waste recycling operations exempt from the resource conservation and recovery act, nonhazardous wastewater treatment facilities other than publicly owned treatment works, used solvent recovery plants, and used oil re-refineries.
- Today's action extends the compliance date for existing sources to February 1, 2000.

In addition, today's action amends the following other subparts in 40 CFR part 63 crossed-referenced by subpart DD to make the applicable changes and corrections consistent with the subpart DD amendments.

- Subpart OO - National Emission Standards for Tanks - Level 1
- Subpart PP - National Emission Standards for Containers

- Subpart QQ - National Emission Standards for Surface Impoundments
- Subpart RR - National Emission Standards for Individual Drain Systems
- Subpart VV - National Emission Standards for Oil-Water Separators and Organic-Water Separators

### **Background**

- EPA promulgated the off-site waste and recovery operations rule on July 1, 1996.
- The rule provides for the control of HAP emissions from selected waste management and recovery operations that are not subject to Federal air standards under other subparts in Part 63.
- The rule requires control of air emissions at plant sites operating under certain conditions. The first condition is that the facility is classified as a "major sources" of HAP (10 tons/year or more of a listed HAP or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of HAP). The facility must also receive certain wastes, used oil, and/or used solvents from off-site locations. These "off-site materials" must be managed in specific types of waste management or recovery operations.

### **How Did EPA Amend The Rule?**

- The amendments to the off-site waste and recovery operations rule resolve issues and questions raised after the rule was issued. The issues in question regarded the rule applicability, test methods and procedures, and air emission control requirements for process vents.
- In addition, today's action corrects technical omissions. It makes specific requirements consistent and up-to-date with recent EPA decisions made for other related Federal air rules and corrects typographical, printing, and grammatical errors.

- The amendments do not significantly change the originally projected compliance costs, environmental benefits, burden on industry, or the number of affected facilities.

### **What Are the Health and Environmental Benefits of this Action?**

- The health and environmental benefits of the amended rule do not change since the rule amendments are primarily technical corrections and clarifications.
- The human health effects associated with exposure to the organic air toxics potentially emitted from the sources regulated by the OSWRO NESHAP can range from mild to severe and may include reduction of lung function, respiratory irritation, and neurotoxic effects. Emissions of organic air toxics, such as benzene and methylene chloride, from the source category are estimated to be reduced by approximately 43,000 megagrams (47,000 tons) annually, representing an 82 percent reduction from the baseline level.
- In addition, application of the controls required by the rule will achieve similar levels of reduction in volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from the source category. Emissions of VOC are associated with a variety of adverse health and welfare impacts.

### **Who Will Be Affected by The Amendments?**

- The amended rule still applies to the same group of facilities that the rule was intended to apply to since the amendments are primarily technical corrections and clarifications. Approximately 250 facilities nationwide are estimated to be subject to the rule.

### **For Further Information**

- Interested parties can download these amendments 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 amendments to the OSWRO NESHAP, contact Ms. Elaine Manning, Waste and Chemical Processes, Group Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27711, telephone number (919) 541-5499, facsimile number (919) 541-0246, electronic mail address "manning.elaine@epamail.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 Radiations's home page address is:  
<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.