

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL BOILERS AND PROCESS HEATERS

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On October 21, 2005 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a petition for reconsideration of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters.
- The petition, filed by the General Electric Corporation (GE) requested reconsideration of the emission averaging provision in the final rule to address how this provision might apply in the context of affected boilers that vent to a common stack.
- EPA also is proposing:
 - ▶ an amendment allowing the testing of a common stack under the emission averaging provision; and
 - ▶ amendments to clarify some applicability and implementation issues raised by stakeholders.
- The proposed amendments do not change the intended coverage of the National Emissions Standards for industrial boilers and will not affect the estimated emissions reductions or the control costs for the final rule.
- The clarifications and corrections contained in the amendments should make it easier for owners and operators and for local and State authorities to understand and implement the applicable requirements in the final National Emissions Standards.
- EPA will accept comment on this proposed rule for 30 days following publication of this action in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- Boilers burn coal and/or other substances such as wood to produce steam. The steam is used to produce electricity or provide heat. Process heaters heat raw or intermediate materials during an industrial process. Boilers and process heaters are used at facilities such as refineries, chemical and manufacturing plants, and paper mills. In addition, these boilers may stand alone to provide heat for shopping malls and university heating systems.
- On September 13, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and process heaters. Following promulgation, the Administrator

received a petition for reconsideration filed by GE as allowed under the Clean Air Act.

- This final rule will protect human health and the environment by substantially reducing emissions of air toxics. EPA estimates total annual air toxic reductions of 50,600 to 58,000 tons per year in the fifth year after promulgation. The main air toxics reduced include hydrogen chloride and metals.
- Exposure to emissions of these air toxics may produce a wide variety of human health effects including irritation of the lungs, skin and mucous membranes, problems with the central nervous system, kidney damage, and cancer. Lead is a very toxic metal. Longterm exposure to lead results in problems with the blood, central nervous system, blood pressure, and kidneys. EPA has classified lead as a probable human carcinogen.
- This final rule also will protect human health and the environment by reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM) in conjunction with the air toxic reductions. EPA estimates SO₂ reductions between 49,000 and 113,000 tons per year and PM (measured as coarse particulate matter) reductions between 545,000 and 562,000 tons in the fifth year after promulgation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the reconsideration notice from EPA's website, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- Today's reconsideration notice and other background information are also available either electronically in EDOCKET, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0048 (Legacy Docket ID No. A-98-44)). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.
- Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0058 (Legacy Docket ID No. A-96-47) and submitted by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>); EDOCKET (<http://www.epa.gov/edocket>); e-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov); facsimile ((202) 566-1741); mail (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460); or hand delivery (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For more information about the reconsideration notice, contact Mr. Jim Eddinger at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5426 or by e-mail at edding.jim@epa.gov.

- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) home page 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 OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.