

## FACT SHEET

### FINAL REVISIONS TO NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NONMETALLIC MINERALS PROCESSING PLANTS

#### ACTION

- On April 16, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Nonmetallic Minerals Processing Plants. These facilities process any of the following 18 nonmetallic minerals:
  - crushed and broken stone
  - sand and gravel
  - clay
  - rock salt
  - gypsum
  - sodium compounds
  - pumice
  - gilsonite
  - talc and pyrophyllite
  - boron
  - barite
  - fluorospar
  - feldspar
  - diatomite
  - perlite
  - vermiculite
  - mica
  - kyanite
- The final rule revisions apply to new, modified, and reconstructed crushers, grinding mills, screening operations, bucket elevators belt conveyors, bagging operations, storage bins, and enclosed truck or railcar loading stations built on or after April 22, 2008.
- This final rule lowers the existing stack emissions limits for particulate matter (PM) from 0.022 grains per dry standard cubic foot (gr/dscf) to 0.014 gr/dscf.
- It also lowers the existing emission limits for fugitive dust emissions. Fugitive dust emissions do not pass through a stack, vent, or similar opening when released to the atmosphere.
- Because directly measuring the mass of fugitive dust emissions is not feasible, this rule adopts an alternative compliance approach. This approach measures the opacity or visibility of fugitive dust emissions and compares the results to established limits. For crushers without emissions capture systems, this final rule lowers the opacity limit from 15 percent to 12 percent. For all other sources, fugitive opacity limits are reduced from 10 percent to 7 percent.
- EPA estimates that these revisions will reduce PM emissions from these facilities by 500 tons per year.
- Finally, the rule requires periodic monitoring of baghouses which are PM emissions control devices. It also requires periodic monitoring for water sprays that are used to control fugitive PM emissions. Testing is required once every five years to assure that fugitive emissions that are not controlled by water sprays are minimized.

- Also, EPA is exempting wet material processing operations from the requirements of this rule. These processes have no potential for PM emissions.
- These lower emission limits can be met using the control measures currently in use at well controlled nonmetallic mineral processing plants. EPA estimates that meeting these limits will cost approximately \$1,900 per plant and would cover increases in monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping. It also includes the potential cost of upgrading emissions control equipment on stacks. In 2014, five years following promulgation, EPA estimates that 322 new nonmetallic minerals processing plants will be affected by the requirements of this rule.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act directs EPA to implement new source performance standards (NSPS) for categories of sources which cause, or contribute significantly to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants are one of these source categories.
- The Act further requires that NSPS reflect the application of the best system of emission reductions which (taking into consideration the cost of achieving such emission reductions, any non-air quality health and environmental impact and energy requirements) the Administrator determines has been adequately demonstrated. This level of control is commonly referred to as best demonstrated technology.
- Under the Act, EPA is required every 8-years to review and revise as needed the standards of performance to reflect improvements in methods of reducing emissions.
- EPA initially promulgated the NSPS for nonmetallic minerals processing plants on August 1, 1985. After reviewing the 1985 standards, the Agency revised the NSPS in June 1997.
- On November 28, 2005, the Sierra Club notified EPA of its intent to sue for failure to review the nonmetallic minerals processing plants NSPS. EPA and the Sierra Club agreed in a Consent Order to review the NSPS and propose revisions as needed by April 16, 2008 and take final action one year later.
- When proposing the revisions to the Nonmetallic Minerals NSPS, EPA also proposed that thermal sand reclamation processes at metal foundries are not subject to the NSPS for Calciners and Dryers in the Mineral Industries. EPA is not taking action on that proposal in this final rule.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the final rule, go to EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarp/t1pfpr.html>, under today's date.

- Today's final rule 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 in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 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-2007-1018.
  
- For further information about the final rule, contact Bill Neuffer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) at (919) 541-5435 or [neuffer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:neuffer.bill@epa.gov).