

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STEAM GENERATING UNIT NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS)**

#### **ACTION**

- On March 16, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final amendments to emission control requirements for new, modified, and reconstructed stationary combustion turbines. These regulations are known as New Source Performance Standards (NSPS).
- Stationary combustion turbines are located at power plants, pipeline compressor stations, chemical and manufacturing plants, oil fields, landfills, and institutional facilities. They are used to produce electricity and to power heavy equipment such as compressors.
- In July, 2006, EPA took final action to update the NSPS for new, modified, and reconstructed stationary combustion turbines. These amendments strengthened the nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) standard for stationary combustion turbines by 90 percent and 80 percent respectively.
- The direct final rulemaking would amend the 2006 rule by changing the SO<sub>2</sub> limit for owners and operators of biogas (landfill gas, digester gas, etc)-fired stationary combustion turbines. The SO<sub>2</sub> limit would be increased 0.06 pounds per million British thermal units (lb/MMBtu) to 0.15 lb/MMBtu to allow stationary combustion turbines to be economically viable in a greater number of landfill gas recovery projects.
- EPA does not expect SO<sub>2</sub> emissions to increase because without the amendment the biogas would likely be flared or combusted in reciprocating internal combustion engines, neither of which have SO<sub>2</sub> controls.
- This proposed rule would not result in additional costs or additional reductions of emissions of criteria pollutants.
- EPA is issuing this rule as a direct final rule because the Agency views this action as noncontroversial and do not anticipate adverse comments. If EPA receives an adverse comment, we will withdraw the direct final rule and respond to the comment in a final rule amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act directs EPA to implement new source performance standards for categories of sources which cause, or contribute significantly to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Stationary Combustion turbines 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 to periodically review and revise the standards of performance to reflect improvements in methods of reducing emissions.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download the proposed rule from EPA's web site, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pfpr.html>
- Today's proposed 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 at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA 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-2008-0748.

### **HOW TO COMMENT**

- Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0748 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
  - E-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov))
  - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
  - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Christian Fellner at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-4003.
- For other combustion-related regulations, visit EPA's Combustion Related Rules page at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/combust/list.html>.