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FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS RULE FOR PESTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from certain pesticide active ingredient (PAI) manufacturing operations. Hazardous air pollutants are also known as air toxics; these are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects such as birth defects or reproductive effects.
- The PAIs that EPA is proposing to regulate are used to manufacture insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide pesticide products. These products are typically used in the agricultural industry for treating insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or any other forms of life declared to be pests.
- The following operations that occur during the manufacture of pesticide active ingredients will be affected by this proposal: facility-wide collection of process vents; storage tanks; wastewater and associated treatment residuals; equipment components (pumps, compressors, agitators, pressure relief devices, sampling connection systems, open-ended valves or lines, valves, connectors, and instrumentation systems); and heat exchange systems.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally referenced 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactum from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- The industrial source category, PAI production, constitutes the manufacture of PAIs that are later used to produce insecticide, herbicide, or fungicide products.

WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULE?

- Affected facilities include newly built as well as existing PAI production facilities.
- The facility registration requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act identified a total of more than 300 sources that could potentially be affected by this proposal. EPA estimates that 78 of these PAI production facilities are major sources of emissions of air toxics. However, as a result of State regulations, many facilities subject to the proposed rule have already installed the stringent air pollution controls necessary to meet these national standards.
- EPA expects that a total of eight PAI production facilities will be built over the next 5 years.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- The proposed rule would reduce emissions of a number of air toxics, including toluene, methanol, and hydrochloric acid.
- The proposed rule would reduce total air toxics emissions by 5,680 tons/year representing about a 76 percent reduction from current levels.

HOW MUCH WOULD THE PROPOSED RULE COST?

- EPA expects the total nationwide capital cost for the entire industry to be approximately \$70.3 million.
- EPA estimates the total nationwide annual cost for the entire industry to be approximately \$39 million.

HOW DOES EPA'S PROPOSED RULE PROMOTE POLLUTION PREVENTION?

- This proposal demonstrates EPA's commitment to making pollution prevention an integral part of regulatory actions whenever possible. EPA's proposal enables facilities to choose to comply with the rule's requirements using either an add-on control device or a pollution prevention alternative to control emissions from process vents. EPA worked in partnership with major stakeholders, including representatives from industry and STAPPA/ALAPCO, in developing the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under recently signed rules at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/rules.html>). For further information about the proposal, contact Mr. Lalit Banker (919-541-5420) of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.
- 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 Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).