

## **FACT SHEET**

### **AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR BENZENE WASTE OPERATIONS**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! On November 23, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the 1990 rule that reduces emissions of benzene and other toxic air pollutants from industrial waste treatment operations. Toxic air pollutants are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- ! The amendments specify control device requirements for a new compliance option for tanks.
- ! The amendments require that emissions from a permanent total enclosure be routed through a closed vent system to a control device. Any control device approved under the rule such as an enclosed combustion system (incinerator, boiler, process heater), vapor recovery system (carbon canister, condenser), or flare can be used provided it meets the control device performance standards in the existing rule.

#### **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS**

- ! No additional emissions or associated health risk will result from the amendments.
- ! EPA estimates that some of the facilities subject to the rule for benzene waste operations and other similar EPA rules will be able to reduce compliance costs by meeting the requirements of a single standard.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! The national standards for benzene waste operations was established under section 112 of the Clean Air Act prior to the 1990 Amendments. This rule is based on a level of control that protects the public health with an ample margin of safety.
- ! The existing rule covers equipment and processes at certain chemical manufacturing plants, coke by-product recovery plants, petroleum refineries, and facilities that treat, store, or dispose of waste generated by those facilities.
- ! On November 12, 2002, EPA amended the existing rule to clarify existing requirements and

add new compliance options. These amendments were published as a direct final rule. One of the rule changes was a new compliance option for tanks adopted from another EPA air standard established under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

- ! Other provisions included in the direct final rule amendments became effective on February 10, 2002. The provisions in today's final rule amendments are effective immediately.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download a copy of the final rule amendments, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- ! For further information about the final rule amendments, contact Mr. Robert B. Lucas of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0884 or [lucas.bob@epa.gov](mailto:lucas.bob@epa.gov).
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.