

January 10, 2000

FACT SHEET

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EPA's FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARD FOR THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

TODAY'S ACTION

- !** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing amendments to its April 1994 rule controlling air toxics generated by the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry and several other processes. That rule is commonly referred to as the "HON."
- !** Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other human health problems.
- !** The proposed amendments include a clarification of the term "process vent," simplification of associated reporting requirements, and other minor clarifications and editorial changes. The proposed amendments also include a different procedure for determining the performance of biological treatment units with multiple mixing zones of mixing.
- !** Today's action will not change the predicted emission reductions or compliance costs.

WHO'S AFFECTED

- !** These amendments apply to synthetic organic chemical manufacturing facilities that produce as primary products any of the chemicals characterized as industrial organic chemicals and cyclic organic crude intermediates. These include chemicals such as benzene, xylene, and butadiene.
- !** Today's action is expected to be primarily of interest to owners and operators of facilities who are subject to the rule and who have process vents that may be affected by these rule amendments and to those owners or operators who are sending gas streams to another facility for disposal.
- !** Today's proposed amendments may also be of interest to owners or operators who are using certain types of biological treatment units to comply with the rule or with certain other maximum achievable control technology standards, such as the standard for the pulp and paper industry.

BACKGROUND

- ! The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For major sources (those with the potential to emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the law requires EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls.
- ! EPA has identified the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry as a major source of air toxics.
- ! In April and June 1994, EPA issued its final HON rule. Since then, there have been several amendments to clarify varying aspects of the rule.

BENEFITS OF EPA'S HON RULE

- ! The final rule regulates the emissions of 111 of the 188 listed air toxics. It is expected to reduce air toxics emissions from the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry by 510,000 tons a year and emissions of smog-causing volatile organic compounds by 1 million tons a year. This represents about an 80 percent reduction from current industry emission levels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To read the text of today's amendments, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>. The revisions also are available from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center at (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail at a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying). The docket numbers are A-90-19 through A-90-23.
- ! For questions about this action, contact Jan Meyer at (919) 541-5254 or by electronic mail at meyer.jan@epamail.epa.gov.