

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR THE ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

ACTION

- On July 31, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the air toxic rule for the miscellaneous organic chemical manufacturing industry, also call the MON.
- EPA is proposing an alternative emission limitation for wastewater tanks which is equivalent to the requirement currently in the standard. EPA is proposing to allow a fixed-roof with openings and vapors routed to a control device, provided the owner or operator maintains the tank under negative pressure.
- The final rule, published in November 2003, required wastewater tanks to have a fixed-roof with no openings and a closed vent system routed to a control device.
- There are an estimated 250 MON facilities, however EPA expects very few will use the proposed alternative.
- This action also clarifies and corrects technical inconsistencies that have been discovered in the final rule.
- EPA will accept comments for 45 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The proposed amendments do not alter the maximum available control technology standards and do not change the health or environmental impacts.
- There are no additional costs associated with the proposed amendments.

BACKGROUND

- On November 10, 2003, EPA published the final air toxics standards called national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants, for the miscellaneous organic chemical manufacturing industry. This industry produces specialty organic chemicals, explosives,

certain polymers and resins, and certain pesticide intermediates.

- EPA published final rule amendments on July 14, 2006, to address issues raised by petitioners of the final rule. The compliance date for this rule is May 10, 2008. The final rule can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rules, go to EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.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 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-2003-0121.
- For further information, contact Randy McDonald of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone at (919) 541-5402 or by e-mail at mcdonald.randy@epa.gov.