

8-15-97

FACT SHEET

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EPA'S FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARD FOR THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND OTHER PROCESSES SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATED REGULATION FOR EQUIPMENT LEAKS (HON)

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today proposing correcting amendments to the January 17, 1997 amendments to final air toxics standard for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI), commonly referred to as the HON (Hazardous Organic National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants).
- ◆ Under authority of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the EPA's HON rule was promulgated on April 22, 1994.
- ◆ These proposed amendments will clarify a definition and make conforming revisions to compliance demonstration procedures for biological treatment units. These proposed changes are expected to be of interest to owners and operators subject to this rule who plan to use biological treatment to comply with the treatment requirements for wastewater streams. Today's action will not change the predicted emission reductions or the cost of the final rule.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE EPA'S HON RULE

- ◆ Today, EPA is clarifying the definition of "enhanced biological treatment system or enhanced biological treatment process". Additionally, EPA is making conforming edits to the compliance demonstration requirements in appendix C of part 63.
- ◆ EPA will accept public comment on the proposed revisions for 30 days following publication in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the EPA is required to regulate emissions 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.) Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects (e.g., reproductive effects and birth defects).
- ◆ On July 16, 1992 the 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 annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

- ◆ In its July 16, 1992 published list of industry groups to be regulated, the EPA identified synthetic organic chemical manufacturing as a major source of air toxics.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF THE EPA'S HON RULE

- ◆ The EPA's final HON rule regulates the emissions of 111 of the pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act's list of 188 hazardous air pollutants.
- ◆ The EPA's final HON rule is expected to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from the SOCFI industry by 510,000 tons per year and emissions of smog-causing volatile organic compounds (VOC) by 1,000,000 tons per year. This represents about an 80 percent reduction from current SOCFI emission levels. Today's proposed clarification would not change these expected reductions.

ORGANIZATION OF RULE

- ◆ The HON is divided into the following four subparts of part 63 of the Code of Federal Regulations:
 - Subpart F: definitions, general information on compliance, reporting, and recordkeeping for sources subject to subparts G and H;
 - Subpart G: emission standards for process vents, storage vessels, transfer operations, and wastewater treatment systems;
 - Subpart H: emission standards for equipment leaks at HON sources;
 - Subpart I: emission standards for equipment leaks at non-HON sources.

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>). In addition, these revisions can be obtained from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail, a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. The HON docket numbers are A-90-19 through A-90-23.

- ◆ For general questions on the HON, contact Dr. Janet Meyer at (919) 541-5254 or Mary Tom Kissell at (919) 541-4516 of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. For technical questions on the wastewater provisions, contact Elaine Manning at (919) 541-5499 of the 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/>).