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FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO EPA'S TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT 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 issuing amendments to the January 17, 1997 amendments to the toxic air pollutant standard for the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (SOCMI) and other processes subject to the equipment leaks provisions of this regulation, commonly referred to as the HON. Toxic air pollutants are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and/or other serious health effects.
- ◆ Under authority of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the EPA's HON rule was promulgated on April 22, 1994.
- ◆ These amendments clarify a definition and make conforming revisions to other sections of the rule as well as remove restrictions on the use of an alternative test procedure for biological treatment units. These 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.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- ◆ 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. Today's amendments do not change the regulated pollutants or emission reductions. These amendments address industry concerns that the definition in the January 17, 1997 amendments would preclude any system from meeting the definition.

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 contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactam from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. 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 controls, known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ◆ EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated includes organic chemical manufacturing as a major source of toxic air pollutants.
- ◆ EPA's HON rule was promulgated in April 1994. The HON was amended in January 1997. Today's action revises part of those amendments.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THESE AMENDMENTS?

- ◆ The HON applies to synthetic organic chemical manufacturing facilities that produce as primary products any of the chemicals listed in table 1 of 40 CFR 63, subpart F. The chemicals listed in this table can be characterized as industrial organic chemicals and cyclic organic crude intermediates.
- ◆ Today's amendments are expected to be of interest to owners and operators of facilities subject to the HON who plan to use biological treatment to comply with the treatment requirements for wastewater streams.

WHAT CHANGES DO THESE AMENDMENTS MAKE?

- ◆ The definition of "enhanced biological treatment system or enhanced biological treatment process" is being clarified and edits are being made to the compliance demonstration requirements in the rule and in appendix C of part 63.
- ◆ These amendments do not add any new requirements. These changes are to clarify terminology and remove restrictions on use of an alternative test procedure. These changes do not add any record keeping or reporting requirements.

HOW MUCH WILL THESE CHANGES COST?

- ◆ The rule amendments are not expected to increase the cost of complying with the rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can obtain the final rule from EPA's website on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. The notice and technical support document are also available through EPA's Air and Radiation Docket

and Information Center (Docket Number A-90-19 through A-90-23) by calling (202) 260-7548 or FAX (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).
- ◆ For general questions on the HON, contact Dr. Jan Meyer of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5254 (or by electronic mail at: meyer.jan@epa.gov). For technical questions on the wastewater provisions, contact Elaine Manning of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5499 (or by electronic mail at: manning.elaine@epa.gov).