

4/25/02

## **FACT SHEET**

### **WITHDRAWAL OF DIRECT FINAL RULE FOR NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS: PESTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT PRODUCTION**

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

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is withdrawing the direct final rule published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2002 that would have amended its toxic air pollutant rule for pesticide active ingredient (PAI) production. The direct final rule amendment would have changed the compliance date from June 23, 2002 to December 23, 2003. EPA is withdrawing the direct final rule because the Agency received an adverse comment on it.
  
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Air toxics are emitted during the PAI manufacturing process, which consists mainly of chemical operations used to produce insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide pesticide products. These products are typically used in the agricultural industry for treating insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or any other forms of life considered to be pests.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! EPA issued the final air toxics rule for PAI production in June 1999. Facilities affected by this rule must comply with its requirements by June 23, 2002. Several petitioners filed for review of the rule, including the American Crop Protection Association (ACPA) and BASF Corporation. EPA and ACPA and BASF signed a settlement agreement on January 18, 2002. As part of the settlement agreement, EPA extended the compliance period for the rule. The extension would give pesticide manufacturers sufficient time to come into compliance with additional amendments EPA proposed also in response to the settlement agreement.
  
- ! The proposed amendments were published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2002
  
- ! PAI manufacturing operations covered by the air toxics rule are primarily chemical synthesis processes. The major air toxics to be controlled include methyl chloride, methanol, toluene, and hydrogen chloride. These pollutants can cause reversible or irreversible toxic effects following exposure.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! For further information about the action, contact Randy McDonald of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5402.
  
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page 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/>.