

March 15, 1995

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS RULE FOR POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE POLYMER AND STYRENE-BASED THERMOPLASTIC POLYMERS PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ Under authority of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed regulation to reduce emissions of air toxics from the manufacture of polyethylene terephthalate polymers and certain styrene-based thermoplastics.
- ◆ These polymers are used to produce such products as polyester fibers, soft drink bottles, automotive plastic parts, appliance parts, packing materials, and plastic toys.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ The proposed rule would reduce emissions of a number of air toxics, including styrene, butadiene, and methanol. Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- ◆ The proposed rule would reduce emissions of air toxics by approximately 11,800 tons, representing a 47 percent reduction from current levels.

HOW DOES THE PROPOSED REGULATION PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?

- ◆ The proposed rule contains a market-based provision, "emissions averaging," that would allow facilities flexibility to choose certain emissions points to control in order to achieve the required emissions reductions in the most cost effective manner possible. In some situations, facilities may find it more cost effective to overcontrol certain emissions points and undercontrol others, so that the overall result would be greater emissions reductions at lesser control costs. The proposed rule spells out how facilities may use emissions averaging and which emissions points may be included.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 189 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. 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 Act requires EPA to develop standards that will require the application of maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

- ◆ On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated, which included major sources that manufacture polyethylene terephthalate polymers and certain styrene-based thermoplastics.

WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THE REGULATION?

- ◆ There are 61 facilities nationwide that would be affected by the proposed rule.
- ◆ The proposed regulation covers six of the twenty-seven source categories listed under the polymers and resins industry that may be regulated under the air toxics provisions of the Clean Air Act.

WHAT ARE THE CONTROL REQUIREMENTS?

- ◆ The proposed rule would set an emissions limit for the following emissions points at affected sources: storage vessels, process vents (continuous and batch), equipment leaks, wastewater operations, and process contact cooling towers.
- ◆ The monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements are outlined in the proposed rule.

HOW MUCH WILL THE RULE COST?

- ◆ The estimated capital costs for the proposed rule would be about \$98 million for existing sources and about \$10 million for new sources.
- ◆ The estimated annual costs would be about \$12 million per year for existing sources and for new sources the estimation of annual costs results in a cost savings of about \$2 million per year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board (under "Recently Signed Rules") on EPA's Technology Transfer Network (TTN) by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access the bulletin board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the rule, contact Mr. Leslie Evans at (919)

541-5410.