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FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO CONTROL TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM WET-FORMED FIBERGLASS MAT PRODUCTION PLANTS

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce toxic air pollutants emitted from wet-formed fiberglass mat production plants. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems.

- Wet-formed fiberglass mat production plants produce a substrate used in the asphalt roofing industry to manufacture asphalt roofing products such as shingles and roll roofing. Air toxics are released from the drying and curing stages of fiberglass mat production.

- Wet-formed fiberglass mat production plants emit three air toxics: formaldehyde; vinyl acetate; and methanol. Exposure to these air toxics can cause a number of health problems, including cancer and respiratory, nervous system, developmental, reproductive, and skin problems.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants.

- For 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), EPA must develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction controls known as "maximum achievable control technology."

- EPA developed and maintains a list of industry groups to be regulated for air toxics. This list includes asphalt roofing and processing plants.

- EPA has determined that wet-formed fiberglass mat production facilities have the potential to be major sources and can be on the same site as asphalt roofing production plants. EPA decided to develop a separate air toxics regulation for the wet-formed fiberglass mat production industry, because production processes and pollutant emissions are different for these two industries.

- EPA developed the proposed and final rule in partnership with the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (a trade organization) and associated groups, including state agencies.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The final rule will reduce nationwide emissions of formaldehyde, vinyl acetate, and methanol by about 219 tons per year, a reduction of nearly 75 percent from current levels.

- Today's action also will reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (a precursor to ground-level ozone, or smog). The rule also will reduce industry employees' exposure to toxic air pollutants.

- EPA expects the implementation of this final rule to result in $5.3 million in capital costs. The Agency estimates the total annual cost at $2.4 million per year. The monitoring, record keeping, and reporting costs are estimated at approximately $100,000 per year.

FINAL RULE REQUIREMENTS

- The final standard applies to wet-formed fiberglass mat production plants that are major sources. These plants may be stand-alone facilities or located with asphalt roofing and processing facilities. Within these facilities affected sources include each new and existing drying and curing oven.

- EPA has identified nine companies operating 14 plants in nine states. EPA estimates that all 14 plants meet the Clean Air Act definition of being "major sources" of air toxics.

- The final rule gives flexibility to the industry by offering a choice of compliance and monitoring options.

- The final rule establishes a total emission limit, using formaldehyde as a "surrogate" control. Formaldehyde emissions are closely associated with emissions of the other pollutants targeted by this rule. If an industry installs controls for formaldehyde emissions, methanol and vinyl acetate emissions will be controlled at the same time. This method of control is both effective and comparatively less expensive for industry.

- The final rule also establishes an optional reduction requirement for formaldehyde. The optional requirement gives plants the choice of reducing formaldehyde emissions to a specified emission rate (0.05 lbs of formaldehyde per ton of product) or by a certain percent (96%).

- Both new and existing sources can achieve the required emission reductions through use of a thermal oxidizer or other control device. Pollution prevention practices, such as process modifications, also are included in the final rule.

- Plants must comply with certain monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information about the final rule, call Mr. Juan Santiago of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1084.

- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar.*