

## FACT SHEET

### ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR EMISSIONS FACTORS PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

#### ACTION

- On October 7, 2009 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to request public comment on the Agency's initial ideas on improvements that could be made to the emissions factors program.
- The Agency is working to improve the emissions factors program to:
  - produce high quality emissions factors more quickly,
  - better indicate the precision and accuracy of emissions factors,
  - encourage the appropriate use of emissions factors,
  - provide more performance test data for emissions factors development, and
  - improve emissions quantification.
- EPA intends to implement a multi-part process to improve the emissions factors program by:
  - Enhancing the existing electronic reporting tool (ERT).
  - Upgrading the current system for compiling and retrieving emissions factors information (WebFIRE).
  - Rewriting the existing emissions factors development procedures document
- EPA is also considering requiring industries to submit certain performance testing information to EPA via electronic reporting. The purpose of this would be to acquire adequate data for the development or improvement of the emissions factors.
- Key Issues for discussion and comment in the ANPR include:
  - Revisions to ERT, including need for third party review, format for test data ratings, and need for specific process-related information.
  - WebFIRE development, including emission factor development decision criteria, data groupings, need for and format of additional statistical parameters, how to assess non-EPA performance testing methods, and the frequency of emission factor updates.
  - What steps could enhance public review of the emissions factor development process and outcome and contribute to the timely development of new and revised factors.
- EPA will accept public comment on the ANPR for 30 days following publication in the Federal Register.

## **BACKGROUND**

- As part of a reevaluation of the emissions factors program, EPA interviewed and surveyed various emissions factors stakeholders and held a series of workshops in 2003 and 2004 to solicit their input on what is needed to update and improve the emissions factors program.
- Stakeholders (industry, S/L/Ts, EPA program offices, environmental action groups, and others) indicated that EPA needs to continue to maintain the AP-42 factors information compilation and retrieval system. Conversely, they said that it takes EPA too long to develop emissions factors, that data submitted for regulatory development have not been used to develop new emissions factors, that there have been several inappropriate uses for emissions factors, and that, in general, EPA is not developing new emissions factors.
- The stakeholders said that EPA should develop criteria to address the development and uses of emissions factors for purposes other than just emissions inventory development; uses such as screening tools for preparing air program permit applications, compliance determinations, and applicability determinations. They also said that the current program is unresponsive to their needs, too complex for their active participation, and lacks transparency concerning data manipulation.
- More recently, the National Academy of Sciences and EPA's Office of Inspector General reviewed and commented on the emissions factors program. Their comments echoed those of all other stakeholders. They also noted that EPA should quantify uncertainty to improve emissions factors and that EPA should be developing and/or updating emissions factors regularly.

## **HOW TO COMMENT**

- Comments should be identified by the following Docket ID Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0174
- Comments should be submitted by one of the following method
  - [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
  - Email: [a-and-rDocket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-rDocket@epa.gov)
  - Fax: 202-566-9744
  - Mail: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the information collection provisions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20503.
  - Hand Delivery: EPA Docket Center, EPA West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20004. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the notice, go to EPA's Website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's final rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
- The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
- For further information about this ANPR, contact Mr. Tom Driscoll of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) at (919) 541-5135 or [driscoll.tom@epa.gov](mailto:driscoll.tom@epa.gov).
- For more information on EPA's emissions factor program see:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/efpac/index.html>.