

FACT SHEET

AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

ACTION

- On December 5, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) modified its requirements for collecting and reporting air emissions data. This rule will:
 - provide options to the state and local air pollution control agencies responsible for reporting data;
 - shorten the timeline for reporting data;
 - eliminate the emissions reporting requirement for biogenic emissions; and
 - require state and local agencies to adopt the definition of a “point source” as specified under Title V of the Clean Air Act.

- This final rule will enhance options to states for data collection and exchange and unify reporting dates for various categories of inventories. Previous reporting requirements have, at times, forced reporting agencies into inefficient collecting and reporting activities.

- The data supplied by this streamlined emissions reporting requirement will improve EPA's ability to compile a national inventory of air pollutant emissions of known and consistent quality and make it available to the public and to policy makers sooner. Clarifying and consolidating reporting requirements and providing options for complying will increase the efficiency with which state and local programs are able to operate.

- The National Emissions Inventory (NEI) is EPA's central data repository for air emissions data. Emissions data reported by States for the six common, or criteria, air pollutants and emissions that form them – nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, lead, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds are used to develop the NEI. Many states also voluntarily report emissions of hazardous air pollutants which are used for developing the NEI.

- States and local agencies now will have additional options for submitting certain air emission data to EPA. Rather than entering their emissions data directly, state and local agencies may choose the option of reporting the inputs to certain emissions models, e.g., MOBILE. EPA will use the model inputs to calculate the states's emissions and enter the data in to the NEI.

- This action also will shorten the timeline for states to report emissions data to EPA from 17 months to 12 months starting with 2009. That is emissions data for 2009 must be submitted to EPA by the end of 2010 instead of May 2011. EPA will maintain the existing 17 month timeline for the 2008 inventory year to allow EPA and states to complete an inventory cycle and become familiar with the features of the new system.

EPA will increasingly rely upon automated procedures that will reduce processing steps within the Agency and allow completion of the NEI on this expedited schedule.

- Biogenic emissions come from natural sources such as vegetation and soils and need to be accounted for when conducting air quality modeling. States will no longer be required to submit biogenic emission estimates since these emissions can be readily estimated by EPA. The benefits include use of a consistent national approach and a reduction in State reporting burden.
- Title V of the 1990 Clean Air Act lays out the requirements for the operating permits program and includes a definition for larger sources of emissions known as “major point sources”. This definition relies upon the source’s “potential to emit” rather than actual emissions for determining applicability of federal permit programs. Consistent with the operating permits program, this rule would use the same definition to identify sources that states must report as point sources.

BACKGROUND

- An emission inventory is a tabulation of all of the sources of air pollutant emissions, complete with the emissions from these sources, in a given area. Emission inventories are fundamental building blocks used to develop air quality control strategies on a local, regional and national level. Emission inventories are also used to track accountability and assess air quality program effectiveness.
- Most of the main provisions of today’s action were originally proposed as part of the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking for the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) on June 10, 2004. A number of commenters on that supplemental notice said that EPA should conduct a separate rulemaking on the emissions reporting provisions and not combine these with the emissions control provisions in CAIR.
- EPA repropose these requirements on January 3, 2006 to allow for a comprehensive review by all interested parties. In general, specific comments that were made on the emissions reporting provisions of the January 3, 2006 proposal were favorable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- Anyone with access to a computer and the internet may download this final rule directly through the World Wide Web at: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief>). For further information about the Air Emissions Reporting Rule, contact Dennis Beauregard at EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5512.