

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE COAL PREPARATION AND PROCESSING PLANTS NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS)**

#### **ACTION**

- On May 15, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed revisions to emissions control requirements for new coal preparation and processing plants. These proposed standards of performance supplement those proposed on April 28, 2008, and would expand emissions reduction at new coal preparation and processing plants that process more than 200 tons of coal per day.
- Coal preparation and processing plants crush, screen, clean and/or use heat to dry coal at coal mines, power plants, cement plants, coke manufacturing facilities, and industrial facilities.
- The proposed revisions to these standards, known as new source performance standards (NSPS), would apply to new, modified, and reconstructed coal preparation and processing plants and reflect improvements in emission control technologies for pollutants that have been developed since the original NSPS for these sources were issued in 1976.
- This supplemental action proposes to strengthen the PM emissions and opacity limits included in the existing NSPS for thermal dryers, pneumatic coal-cleaning equipment, and coal handling equipment.
- It also proposes to expand the applicability of the thermal dryer standards so that they would apply to both direct contact and indirect contact thermal dryers drying all coal ranks and pneumatic coal-cleaning equipment cleaning all coal ranks.
- In addition, this supplemental proposal would establish a sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission limit and a combined nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions limit for thermal dryers.
- Finally, this action would establish work practice standards to control coal dust emissions from open storage piles and roadways associated with coal preparation and processing plants.
- EPA expects that owners or operators of affected coal preparation and processing plants would comply with the revised limits of this proposal through the installation of control equipment or through the modification of current work practices.

- EPA estimates that 22 new coal preparation and processing plants will be built over the next 5 years and would be subject to these proposed revisions.

### **HEALTH/ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

- This proposed rule would result in additional reductions of emissions of particle pollution, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. It would protect human health and the environment by assuring pollutant emissions from coal preparation and processing plants are minimized.
- New coal preparation and processing plants would need to install controls or utilize work practices to meet the amended limits. However, these preparation and processing plants would have been required to install similar controls to meet the requirements included in the April 2008 proposal and under the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program and state permitting requirements., The emissions reductions resulting from this supplemental action would not be significantly different from the April 2008 proposed rule.

### **COST**

- EPA estimates total nationwide annual costs of \$1 million when the revised standards are fully implemented. Because new plants already will be required to install controls to meet the April 2008 proposed requirements and NSR and state permitting requirements, the additional control costs associated with this proposed rule are minimal, and the monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping requirements of the proposed rule would account for these costs

### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to issue NSPS for coal preparation plants that consider emission control technologies available and costs of control. Further, the CAA requires EPA to review the standards at least every 8 years, and revise them as appropriate.
- Since EPA originally issued the NSPS for coal preparation plants in 1976, technological advances have led to improvements in:
  - Emission controls (including fabric filters, chemical dust suppressants, fogging systems, and passive enclosure dust controls systems (PECS)) used to control PM (and opacity) emissions, and
  - Emission controls used to control SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO emissions from thermal dryers.

- This proposed rule would assure that all new, modified, and reconstructed coal preparation and processing plants meet the same level of emission controls currently achieved at recently constructed facilities. The 1976 rule could allow for less effective emissions controls.
- As part of a consent decree with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, et.al, EPA agreed to review the 1976 standards of performance for Coal Preparation Plants and complete needed amendments by April 2009. After reviewing comments on the April 2008 proposed amendments, EPA requested a modification to the original consent agreement. It requires proposed supplemental amendments by May 15, 2009 and final amendments by September 26, 2009.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this proposed rule from EPA's web site, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.
- Today's proposed 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 at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 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.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0260.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0260 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
  - E-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov))
  - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
  - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Christian Fellner at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-4003.

- For other combustion-related regulations, visit EPA's Combustion Related Rules page at:  
*<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/combust/list.html>*.