

## FACT SHEET

### FINAL RECONSIDERATION OF THE STARTUP AND SHUTDOWN PROVISIONS UNDER IN THE MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS (MATS) ACTION

- On November 7, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the action reconsidering the provisions applicable during periods of startup and shutdown under the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) and Utility New Source Performance Standards (Utility NSPS). This includes the work practice standards that must be employed during such periods. Additionally, certain monitoring and testing requirements that are applicable during such periods were adjusted.
- The final reconsideration includes work practice standards that must be employed during periods of startup and shutdown. Additionally, this action adjusts certain monitoring and testing requirements that apply during such periods.
- The final reconsideration affects both new and existing coal- and oil-fired power plants that are covered by MATS.
- The changes to the startup and shutdown provisions continue to ensure that MATS will protect Americans from dangerous pollutants such as mercury. The startup and shutdown provisions are achievable and are consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA).
- The agency reconsidered the startup and shutdown provisions for MATS because it had not provided adequate opportunity for notice and comment on the final rule for these provisions.
- We project that these updates will result in no significant change in costs, emission reductions or health benefits from MATS.

#### BACKGROUND

- On December 16, 2011, the EPA Administrator signed the final MATS and Utility New Source Performance Standards (Utility NSPS) rulemakings, and these were published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2012.
- Following publication of the rules, EPA received 20 petitions for reconsideration of the MATS and 4 for reconsideration of the Utility NSPS.
- On July 20, 2012, EPA sent a letter to petitioners stating that the Agency was granting reconsideration of the provisions applicable during periods of startup and shutdown. Among other things, petitioners said EPA did not provide adequate notice of the provisions

included in the final rule and, therefore, the public had not had adequate opportunity to comment.

- On November 16, 2012, the EPA Administrator signed the proposed rule requesting comment on the startup and shutdown provisions under MATS, and the proposal was published in the Federal Register on November 30, 2012. The comment period was reopened on June 25, 2013, for these provisions. We considered the issues raised by commenters during the public comment periods in this final rule.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- The final reconsideration is posted at: <http://www.epa.gov/mats/actions.html> and <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/utility/utilitypg.html>.
- For further information about the notice, contact Mr. William Maxwell of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, Energy Strategies Group at (919) 541-5430 or by email at [maxwell.bill@epa.gov](mailto:maxwell.bill@epa.gov).