

FACT SHEET

FINAL REGULATION TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM SITE REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES

ACTION

- ! On August 20, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from facilities that conduct site remediation activities.

- ! Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.

- ! Site remediation involves the removal of hazardous substances from contaminated media (soil or groundwater), removal of the contaminated media itself, or removal of the hazardous substances by themselves. Site remediation can be conducted at industrial facilities such as chemical manufacturing facilities, petroleum refineries, and metal finishers; government facilities such as military installations; and other facilities.

- ! This regulation requires emissions controls and/or requirements for work practices for three groups of emission points: process vents, remediation material management units (tanks, containers, surface impoundments, oil/water separators, organic/water separators, drain systems) and equipment leaks.
 - " Process vents are required to vent emissions to an air pollution control device.
 - " Remediation material management units are required to control emissions by using a floating cover or a fixed roof cover and/or venting to an air pollution control device.
 - " Equipment leaks - A leak detection and repair program is required for equipment (e.g., pumps, compressors, valves, connectors) involved in remediation.

- ! This rule will affect approximately two hundred and fifty facilities conducting site remediation activities.

- ! Facilities conducting existing site remediation activities that are subject to the final rule are required to be in compliance within three years from the date the final rule is published in the *Federal Register*.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! EPA estimates the rule will reduce emissions of air toxics by 50 percent from current levels. This rule will also reduce volatile organic compound emissions by about 50 percent from current levels. These air pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system.
- ! EPA estimates the total nationwide capital cost for facilities to comply with the rule to be \$17.6 million. The total nationwide annual cost will be approximately \$8.2 million.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 specific air toxics. This rule will regulate 98 of those air toxics.
- ! On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups, known as source categories, that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that have the potential to emit 10 tons per year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of air toxics), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest emitting (also called best-performing) facilities. These standards are based on stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA proposed this rule in the *Federal Register* on July 30, 2002 and solicited public comment on it. As a result of the comments, EPA is making a few clarifications, but is making no substantive changes in the final rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! Interested parties can download the final rule from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html.
- ! For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Greg Nizich of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-3078 or by e-mail at nizich.greg@epa.gov.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage 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: www.epa.gov/oar/.