

FACT SHEET

Final Federal Plan Requirements for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

ACTION

- On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the final federal plan for existing municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills operated by any state, tribe or locale that has not submitted a satisfactory plan to reduce emissions of landfill gas in accordance with the MSW Landfills Emission Guidelines.
- Affected MSW landfills are those that commenced construction on or before July 17, 2014, and have not been modified or reconstructed since July 17, 2014.
- The Emission Guidelines for MSW Landfills were finalized in 2016 and require existing landfills that reach a landfill gas emissions threshold of 34 metric tons of nonmethane organic compounds (NMOC) or more per year (written as megagrams in the rule) to install a system to collect and control landfill gas.
- In this final federal plan, EPA is implementing emission guideline requirements for existing MSW landfills located in states and Indian country where state plans or tribal plans are not currently in effect because:
 - the state or local agency failed to submit a plan; or
 - a plan has not yet been approved.
- Upon approval of a state plan, the federal plan will no longer apply to MSW landfills in that state.
- This action implements the emission limits, compliance schedules, testing, monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping requirements that were established in the Emission Guidelines for MSW Landfills.
- The federal plan summarizes mechanisms for implementation and options for the delegation of authority of the MSW Landfills Federal Plan that allow states to play a primary role in implementing and enforcing the federal plan.
- This federal plan also includes an inventory of designated facilities and an estimate of emissions from those designated facilities.
- EPA estimates about 1,600 landfills would potentially be covered by this final federal plan. These landfills are in 41 states and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Additionally, one tribal entity, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, would be covered by this federal plan.
- Full or partial approvals have been finalized for ten state and local plans (Pinal County, Arizona; Arizona; California; Delaware; Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; New Mexico; Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia, and West Virginia). The federal plan does not apply to landfills located in these states, while certain portions of the federal plan apply to landfills in California, as its state plan was only partially approved.

BACKGROUND

- On August 29, 2016, EPA promulgated revisions to the Emission Guidelines for MSW Landfills. EPA determined that a well-designed and well-operated landfill gas collection and control system is the best system of emission reduction for controlling landfill gas.
- The emission guidelines require designated landfills to install and operate a gas collection and control system within 30 months after reaching the NMOC threshold.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- The fact sheet and a copy of the federal plan, as well as a copy of the 2016 MSW Landfills Emission Guidelines, are available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/municipal-solid-waste-landfills-new-source-performance-standards>.
- For additional technical information about MSW landfills, contact Andrew Sheppard, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-4161 or sheppard.andrew@epa.gov.