

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR PETROLEUM REFINERY HEAT EXCHANGE SYSTEMS

ACTION

- On June 12, 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the air toxic standards for heat exchange systems at petroleum refineries.
- The amendments finalized today:
 - Add an additional, less burdensome monitoring option for refiners. This alternative allows for monitoring quarterly using a lower leak action level rather than monitoring monthly at a higher action level. Modeling shows that equivalent emission reductions are achieved.
 - Revise the definition of heat exchange system to improve clarity regarding applicability of the monitoring and repair provisions.
 - Clarify the monitoring requirements and an allowance to monitor at an aggregated location for once-through cooling water heat exchange systems.
- These final amendments do not include the proposed cross-referencing to the Uniform Standards for Heat Exchange Systems or the use of direct water sampling methods as an alternative to the Modified El Paso (stripping column) Method.
- The heat exchange system requirements of the standards finalized on October 28, 2009, resulted in emission reductions of 630 tons per year (tpy) toxic air pollutants and 4,000 tpy volatile organic compounds. These final amendments will not change these impacts.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where the EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or source categories). The standards for large sources are known as MACT standards and are based on emission levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- In the second phase, the law requires the EPA to review the technology-based standards and revise them, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention. The law directs the EPA to repeat this assessment every 8 years.

- During the second phase of the program, the EPA also is required to assess the remaining health risks from each industry group for which it has set MACT standards and determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- On January 16, 2009, EPA finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Petroleum Refineries. Those amendments:
 - Addressed the risk remaining after application of the MACT standards (residual risk).
 - Provided the results of the EPA's 8-year review of developments in practices, processes and control technologies that have occurred during that time (technology review).
 - Amended the standards for petroleum refineries to add additional MACT standards for heat exchange systems.
- On October 28, 2009, the EPA proposed to withdraw the risk and technology review portions of the rule signed by the Administrator. The heat exchange system MACT requirements were not withdrawn but were promulgated in the Federal Register on this date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the proposed rule from the EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttnatw01/petrefine/petrefpg.html>.
- This final rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the 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 in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 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 Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0146.

- For further information about the final rule, contact Ms. Brenda Shine of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3608, or by email at shine.brenda@epa.gov.