

FACT SHEET

Proposed Amendments to New Source Performance Standards Review for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels

ACTION

- On September 28, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels) as the preliminary results of the review of the new source performance standards (NSPS) required by the Clean Air Act. EPA is proposing revisions to the NSPS that are applicable storage vessels that commence construction, reconstruction, or modification after the proposal is published in the Federal Register.
- The proposed amendments would help to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and other hazardous air pollutants. VOCs are a precursor to the formation of ground level ozone (or smog). This rule will help reduce health effects associated with air toxics and smog.
- In this proposed action, EPA would require air pollution controls for a wider range of storage vessels than is currently required in the existing NSPS. The NSPS was last formally reviewed in 1987.
- EPA is also proposing to revise the volatile organic compound (VOC) standards to reflect the best system of emissions reductions (BSER) for affected storage vessels.
 - The existing NSPS requires 95% control efficiency, and the proposed control updates would require 98% control efficiency for VOCs.
- In addition, EPA is proposing additional monitoring requirements for internal floating roofs to ensure continuous compliance with the standard.
- EPA is proposing modification requirements for storage vessels that experience a change in operation to a new fluid with a higher vapor pressure. Modification requirements are established under the BSER for affected storage vessels.
- In this action, EPA also proposes to:
 - Revise monitoring and operating requirements for both floating roof and closed vent system control devices;
 - Implement degassing emission controls for storage vessels;
 - Implement revisions related to emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM);
 - Add requirements for electronic reporting; and
 - Make other technical improvements.

NSPS Review

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) section 111 requires EPA to determine the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for the source category and the degree of emission limitation achievable through application of the BSER (taking into account the cost of achieving such reduction and any non-air quality health and environmental impact and energy requirements).

- EPA must then issue standards of performance for new sources that reflect that level of stringency.
- The CAA section 111 requires EPA to, “at least every eight years review and, if appropriate, revise,” the NSPS. EPA reviews available data and information to determine if BSER has changed and, if so, proposes revised standards to reflect such changes.

BACKGROUND

- On April 8, 1987, EPA promulgated the Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels) for Which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After July 23, 1984 (NSPS Kb).
 - NSPS Kb, expanded the existing source category established under NSPS K (1977) and NSPS Ka (1980), to include Volatile Organic Liquid (VOL) storage vessels
- These standards require all new, modified, and reconstructed storage vessels to control emissions of VOCs to the level achievable by the best system of emission reduction, considering costs, non-air quality health, and environmental and energy impacts.
- NSPS Kb was established based on the BSER available at that time.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comments for 45 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0358 may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Send comments by email to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPAHQ-OAR-2023-0358.
- We encourage the public to submit comments via <https://www.regulations.gov/> or email, as there may be a delay in processing mail. Hand deliveries and couriers may be received by scheduled appointment only.
- For further information on EPA Docket Center services and their current status, please visit us online at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/volatile-organic-liquid-storage-vessels-including-petroleum>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.
- For further technical information about the rule, contact Michael Cantoni, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-5593 or cantoni.michael@epa.gov.