

November 26, 2002

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from iron and steel foundries.
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also called hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- ! Iron and steel foundries melt scrap, ingot, and other forms of iron and steel, then pour the resulting molten metal into molds to produce shaped products. The proposed rule would affect about 100 foundries, most of which are operated by manufacturers of automobiles and large industrial equipment and by their suppliers.
- ! The requirements of the proposed rule are based on equipment and procedures in place at the best controlled foundries. The proposed rule would allow facilities flexibility to comply with the requirements by using a combination of control devices, work practices, and pollution prevention measures.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- ! The proposed rule would reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from major sources by about 900 tons per year. Other pollutants, including particulate matter (PM) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), would be reduced by over 3,600 tons per year.
- ! Toxic air pollutants that would be reduced by this proposed rule include benzene, chromium, dioxin, formaldehyde, lead, manganese, methanol, naphthalene, nickel, and triethylamine. Health effects associated with exposure to these pollutants can include cancer and chronic or acute disorders of the respiratory, reproductive, and central nervous systems.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE WOULD REQUIRE

- ! The proposed rule would apply to new or existing metal casting departments and new or existing mold and core making departments at any iron and steel foundry that is a major source. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons or more of a combination of toxic air pollutants.
- ! Today's proposed rule focuses on reducing toxic air pollutants from foundry process equipment

known as metal melting furnaces; scrap preheaters; pouring stations or areas; pouring, cooling, and shakeout lines; molding or core making lines; and mold or core coating lines. Emission limits for metal and organic HAP are proposed along with operating limits for capture systems and control devices and work practice requirements.

- ! Existing facilities would be required to comply with this proposed rule within 3 years after its publication in the Federal Register.

COST OF THE PROPOSED RULE

- ! EPA estimates the total annualized costs for plant owners and operators to comply with the proposed rule to be \$23.1 million, including costs for adding and upgrading control equipment, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting. As a result of the proposed rule, the Agency anticipates domestic iron castings production will decrease by 10,000 tons per year, or about 0.1 percent. The Agency anticipates a related 0.1 percent increase in the market price for iron castings. No closures are projected as a result of the proposed rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy of the rule, go to “Recent Actions” on EPA’s Worldwide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> .
- ! For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364 or cavender.kevin@epa.gov.
- ! Send any comments on the proposed amendments (in duplicate if possible) to: Iron and Steel Foundries NESHAP Docket, EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. EPA West (MD-6102T), Room B-108, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20460, Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0034. You may also submit comments and data by electronic mail (e-mail) to air-and-r-docket@epa.gov , Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0034. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect® file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket No. OAR-2002-0034). You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Do not submit confidential business information (CBI) by e-mail. See the Federal Register notice for more information on how to handle CBI.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation home page, <http://www.epa.gov/oar/> , contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues.