

November 26, 2002

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PRIMARY MAGNESIUM REFINERIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from primary magnesium refineries. Toxic air pollutants are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- ! Primary magnesium refineries produce magnesium metal from the waters of the Great Salt Lake. The only primary magnesium refinery operating in the United States is U.S. Magnesium Corporation located in Rowley, Utah.
- ! The proposed rule would apply to each new or existing primary magnesium refinery that is a major source of toxic air pollutants. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of toxic air pollutants.
- ! EPA developed today's proposed rule by adopting emission limits from the plant's title V operating permit issued by the State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality.
- ! Various combinations of venturi and packed bed scrubbers are used to control emissions from each emission point. The proposed rule would require these control devices to meet operating limits for pressure drop and scrubber water flow rate using a continuous parameter monitoring system (CPMS).

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! Exposure to the air toxics has been demonstrated to cause adverse health effects, including chronic and acute disorders of the blood, heart, kidneys, reproductive system, and central nervous system. Some of these pollutants are considered to be carcinogens, and all can cause toxic effects in humans following sufficient exposure.
- ! The proposed rule would not result in a reduction in emissions since we are adopting the plant's existing title V permit limits. EPA estimates the total annualized costs for the Utah refinery to comply with the proposed rule to be \$48,000 due to monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy the rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules
- ! For further information about the proposed rule, contact Ms. Lula Melton of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2910 or melton.lula@epa.gov.
- ! Send any comments on the proposed rulemaking (in duplicate if possible) to: Primary Magnesium Refining NESHAP Docket, EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. EPA West (Mail Code 6102T), Room B-108, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0043. You may also submit comments and data by electronic mail (e-mail) to: air-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0043. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect (R) file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket No. OAR-2002-0043). 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 the submittal of CBI.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR'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 OAR's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/air/>).