**6/7/02**

# FACT SHEET

# AMENDMENTS TO FINAL RULES TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID MANUFACTURING PLANTS AND PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS PRODUCTION PLANTS

## TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending its toxic air pollutant rules for phosphoric acid manufacturing plants and phosphate fertilizers production plants. The amendments would resolve issues and questions raised by industry after the original rules were issued.

- Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health or environmental effects.

- Most of the phosphoric acid produced by phosphoric acid manufacturing plants is used in the production of phosphate-based fertilizers that are used for agricultural purposes. A variety of air toxics, including primarily hydrogen fluoride and several metals, are emitted during the manufacture of those fertilizers. Exposure to those compounds has been demonstrated to cause health problems.

- Today's amendments would not change the health and environmental benefits of the final rules since the amendments are primarily technical corrections which would result in the use of the same control equipment and clarifications regarding parameter monitoring.

## BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, require EPA to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology. The EPA identified phosphoric acid manufacturing plants and phosphate fertilizers production plants as industrial sources emitting one or more toxic air pollutants.

- The EPA issued its final air toxics rules for phosphoric acid manufacturing plants and phosphate fertilizers production plants on June 10, 1999. Those final rules required the

application of maximum achievable control technology for approximately 21 facilities manufacturing phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers.

- The final rules are expected to reduce air toxics emissions, primarily hydrogen fluoride, by approximately 345 tons annually -- a 57 percent reduction from current emissions. The final rules also will reduce emissions of total fluorides, which are known to have adverse effects on the environment, including damage to vegetation. In addition, the final rules will yield small reductions in emissions of heavy metals, including chromium and lead, and will reduce emissions of the volatile organic compound methyl isobutyl ketone.

## WHAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD DO

- The amendments to the final rules would revise the emissions limit for phosphate rock calciners, which are used to remove moisture and organic matter from phosphate rock, based on new emissions and operating data.

- The amendments also include technical corrections of requirements to monitor operating parameters of emission control devices or production processes. This monitoring helps assure that emission limits are achieved on a continuous basis.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the amendments from EPA's page on the World Wide Web, go to *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg*. For additional information, contact Keith Barnett of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5605 or by e-mail at *barnett.keith@epa.gov*.

- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar/*.