

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR COKE OVENS: PUSHING, QUENCHING, AND BATTERY STACKS

ACTION

- ! On October 4, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the national standards that reduce toxic air emissions from processes known as pushing and quenching, and from battery stacks on coke oven batteries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Coke oven batteries convert coal to coke which is used to produce iron at steel mills and foundries.
- ! These amendments add new provisions for capture systems that do not use electric motors to drive the fans. The amendments also add provisions for repairing defects in capture systems in cases where more than 30 days are necessary to complete repairs. If repairs cannot be completed within 30 days, owners or operators must notify the permitting authority. If repairs cannot be completed within 60 days, owners or operators must request an extension and approval of a repair schedule from the permitting authority. These changes are made as part of a settlement agreement with industry trade associations that filed a lawsuit challenging the final standards.
- ! Other amendments add requirements for a type of control system that is not covered by the standards. These changes apply the existing emissions limit for control equipment known as “mobile scrubber cars” to all types of mobile control devices and add new compliance provisions. These changes are being added at the request of a company constructing a new plant and are not part of the settlement agreement.
- ! EPA is publishing these amendments as a direct final rule with a parallel proposal because the Agency views these changes as noncontroversial. EPA will accept comment on the amendments for 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register* (45 days if a public hearing is requested). If no significant, adverse comments are filed, the final amendments will become effective 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! Coke oven emissions include polycyclic organic matter, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, and other air toxics that are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancers and disorders of the blood, central nervous system, and respiratory system.
- ! The amendments do not change the stringency of the existing standards.

BACKGROUND

- ! In the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress directed EPA to use a “technology-based” approach to reduce emissions of air toxics from major sources of air pollution. Under this approach, all major sources must meet air toxic emission standards reflecting application of the maximum achievable control technology.

- ! In February 2003, EPA issued a final emissions standard to control air toxic emissions from coke oven processes known as pushing, quenching, and from battery stacks. Earlier requirements control air emissions from other points at a coke oven battery.

- ! When fully implemented, the February 2003 standards are expected to reduce air toxic emissions from these operations by nearly 300 tons per year.

- ! The American Iron and Steel Institute and the American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute filed a lawsuit challenging the final standards (*AISI/ACCCI Coke Oven Environmental Task Force v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 03-1167, D.C. Cir.). No comments were filed during the 30-day comment period on the proposed settlement agreement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy the direct final amendments and parallel proposal, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/tn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules.

- ! For further information about the amendments, 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 amendments (in duplicate if possible) to: Proposed Settlement Agreement in *AISI/ACCCI Coke Oven Environmental Task Force vs. US EPA*, No. 03-11678 (DC Cir.) Docket, EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. EPA West (6102T), Room B-108, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20460, Attention Docket No. OGC-2004-0004. You may also submit comments and data through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Agency website at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, or electronic mail (e-mail) at a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket No. OGC-2004-0004. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect^(R) file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket No. OGC-2004-0004). 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.