

# Fact Sheet

02/20/2002

## **PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING AND MISCELLANEOUS COATING MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**

### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing two rules to reduce toxic air emissions from Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing and Miscellaneous Coating Manufacturing facilities.
- Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Air toxics are emitted during the production of organic chemicals and coatings, such as paints, inks, and adhesives. Air toxics released from these industries include toluene, xylene, methylene chloride, methanol, and hydrogen chloride.
- Today's proposed rules would require excellent air emission controls known as "maximum achievable control technology" for process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater systems, and transfer operations at organic chemical and coating manufacturers covered by these proposed rules.

### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act of 1990 requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of the listed 188 toxic air pollutants.
- For major sources within each source category, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest emitting (also called best-performing) plants. Major sources are those sources that emit 10 tons per year or more of a single air toxic or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- These proposed rules cover 24 listed source categories. The miscellaneous organic chemical production source category has been created to include 23 listed source categories, primarily from the chemical process and the polymers and resins industry groups. The miscellaneous coating production source category includes the listed source category for paints, coatings, and adhesives.

### **WHAT THE PROPOSED NESHAP WOULD DO**

- The proposed rule would require miscellaneous organic chemical manufacturing facilities and miscellaneous coating facilities that are considered major sources to meet strict emission limits or "standards" that reflect the application of maximum achievable control technology.
- The emission standards would apply to continuous and batch process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater, and transfer operations at these facilities.
- Today's proposed action also includes provisions that allow industry to comply through an alternative, pollution prevention-based standard. The alternative standard requires significant reductions in the amounts of toxic air pollutants used during the manufacturing process. The rule would allow facilities to focus on improving processes by reducing solvent use.

- The annual cost of the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing rule would be \$78 million. The annualized cost of the Miscellaneous Coating Manufacturing rule would be \$16 million.
- The proposed rules would reduce air toxics emissions by 31,000 tons per year from miscellaneous organic chemical manufacturing facilities and reduce 6,000 tons per year from miscellaneous coating manufacturing facilities. The proposed rules would also reduce volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For further information about the proposal, contact Randy McDonald of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5402.
- To download a copy of the proposed rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- Send any comments on the proposed rulemaking (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: **Docket No. A-96-04**, Room M-1500, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. You may also submit comments and data by electronic mail (e-mail) to: [A-and-R-Docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:A-and-R-Docket@epamail.epa.gov).
- Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file to avoid the use of special characters and encryption problems or in WordPerfect® version 5.1, 6.1, or Corel® 8 file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (**Docket No. A-96-04**). You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. *Do not submit confidential business information by e-mail. See the Federal Register notice for more information on how to handle the submittal of confidential business information.*
- *EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage 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 Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.*