

## FACT SHEET

### AMENDMENT TO EPA'S FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE

#### FOR PULP and PAPER COMBUSTION SOURCES

#### ACTION

On July 7, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended its rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from pulp and paper combustion sources. This amendment establishes a site specific emissions standard for a paper mill owned by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation.

- Chemical recovery combustion systems at pulp mills process and recover the chemicals used to convert wood into pulp. Air toxics are emitted from chemical recovery combustion sources during the chemical recovery process.
- This amendment will not significantly change the health and environmental effects of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control air toxics emissions.

#### BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 toxic air pollutants. EPA included pulp and paper production in the list of industries that are major sources of air toxics. "Major" sources are those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of air toxics. For listed categories of major sources, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the use of stringent air pollution controls.
- EPA issued its final rule for chemical recovery combustion sources in January 2001. The rule requires approximately 136 of these facilities to reduce toxic air emissions (metals, gaseous organic compounds and hydrogen chloride) using stringent air pollution controls known as maximum achievable control technologies (MACT).
- This rule will reduce air toxics emissions by 2,700 tons per year—a 12 percent reduction from 1997 levels. The rule also reduces particulate matter and volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog). In addition, the rule will reduce carbon monoxide emissions.
- In response to a settlement agreement between EPA and Weyerhaeuser Corporation EPA amended the final rule on February 18, 2003. This amendment, issued as a direct final rule and parallel proposal, added
  - an alternative emissions standard for a specific Weyerhaeuser mill, and
  - amendments to clarify and consolidate monitoring and testing requirements.

- EPA received adverse comment on the amendments related to monitoring and testing and will now consider those comments before issuing a final rule relating to monitoring and testing.
- We were unable to publish a withdrawal of the revisions prior to the May 19, 2003 effective date of the direct final rule. Accordingly, today's action removes the revised monitoring requirements that should not have become effective.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Interested parties can download today's technical correction from EPA's web site on the Internet under recent actions at the following address:  
*<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>*. For further information on today's technical correction, contact Mr. Jeff Telander of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5427.
- 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/>*.