

January 19, 2001

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR INTEGRATED IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a regulation to reduce emissions of air toxics from integrated iron and steel manufacturing facilities.
- ! Integrated iron and steel manufacturing facilities produce steel from iron ore. Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects in humans.
- ! Today's proposed action focuses on reducing air toxics emitted at a number of points at these facilities, including sinter plants that recover fine-sized materials, blast furnaces that produce iron, and basic oxygen process furnaces that produce steel. The proposed rule also would reduce emissions of particulate matter.
- ! Facilities will be able to comply with the rule's requirements using an add-on control device to reduce emissions of metallic compounds and pollution prevention techniques to reduce emissions of organic compounds.
- ! EPA worked with major stakeholders, including representatives from the industry, in developing the proposal.
- ! EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 90 days after publication of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*. After reviewing all comments, the Agency anticipates issuing the final rule in 2001.

BENEFITS AND COST

- ! EPA's proposed rule would reduce toxic air emissions from iron and steel plants by about 13 tons per year over 1999 levels. The air toxics reduced include 11 metallic compounds, primarily manganese and lead. Exposure to these air toxics is associated with cancer, central nervous system effects, kidney damage, and acute health disorders such as respiratory and skin irritation.
- ! Particulate matter emissions would be reduced by 1,500 tons per year over 1999 levels. Exposure to particulate matter can aggravate existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease and is associated with an increased risk of premature death.

- ! EPA estimates the total annual cost of compliance at \$5.9 million. These costs include adding or upgrading emission control systems, purchasing monitoring systems, monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting.
- ! EPA estimates the proposed rule would increase the price of steel mill products by less than 0.1 percent. No integrated iron and steel facility is expected to close as a result of the proposed rule.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES

- ! The proposed rule applies to each integrated iron and steel manufacturing facility that is a major source of air toxic emissions. Major sources emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons or more of a combination of toxic air pollutants.
- ! All new or existing sinter plants, blast furnaces, and basic oxygen process furnace shops at integrated iron and steel manufacturing facilities will be subject to the proposed rule.
- ! Sinter plants would be required to meet emission limitations for each windbox exhaust, discharge end and sinter cooler; and a limit on the oil content of the sinter plant feedstock.
- ! Blast furnace casthouses would be required to meet certain emission limits.
- ! Basic oxygen process furnace shops would be required to meet emission limitations for each basic oxygen process furnace, roof monitor and ancillary shop operation (hot metal transfer, hot metal desulfurization, slag skimming and ladle metallurgy).
- ! Capture systems and control devices also would be required to meet operating limits and operation and maintenance requirements.
- ! Many facilities subject to the proposed rule have already installed air pollution control systems required by state rules or federal new source performance standards. EPA anticipates that only four of the 20 existing plants will need to upgrade or install emission control systems for certain processes to meet the proposed rule requirements.
- ! The monitoring requirements include continuous opacity monitoring systems, bag leak-detection systems, continuous parameter monitoring systems and visual inspections, depending on the type of affected sources. Performance tests are also required twice during each term of the facility's title V operating permit.
- ! The recordkeeping and reporting requirements in the proposed rule are similar to those required for other EPA air toxics regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy of the proposed rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- ! For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Phil Mulrine of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5289 or mulrine.phil@epa.gov.
- ! Send any comments on the proposed rulemaking (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. A-2000-44, 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.
- ! 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-2000-44). 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/>.