

November 23, 1994

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce air toxics emissions from gasoline distribution facilities nationwide.
- ◆ Gasoline bulk terminals and pipeline breakout stations transfer and store gasoline (and other petroleum products) as it is distributed from petroleum refineries to service stations and gasoline bulk plants. Air toxics are released from these facilities during gasoline tank truck and rail car loading, gasoline storage, and from vapor leaks from pumps, valves, and other equipment in gasoline service.
- ◆ This regulation demonstrates the EPA's commitment to making pollution prevention an integral part of regulatory actions whenever possible; the control requirements outlined in the rule are based mostly on pollution prevention options instead of end of pipe controls.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ The regulation will reduce emissions of about 10 air toxics, including benzene and toluene, that are found in gasoline vapor by 2,300 tons annually. Air toxics emissions are harmful to public health and the environment.
- ◆ The rule will also reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) by over 38,000 tons annually. The VOC emissions contribute significantly to ground-level ozone or smog.
- ◆ The rule will result in energy savings of 10 million gallons of gasoline per year from collecting or preventing gasoline evaporation.

WHY IS THE EPA REGULATING GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES?

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act (Act), the EPA is required to regulate emissions of 189 listed hazardous air pollutants or air toxics. On July 16, 1992, the EPA published a list of 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 or more of a combination of pollutants), the Act requires the EPA to develop standards that will require the application of maximum achievable control technology.
- ◆ On July 16, 1992, the EPA published a list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated, which included major sources of gasoline distribution facilities.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL RULE?

- ◆ There are approximately 240 gasoline bulk terminals and 20 pipeline breakout stations that will be affected by this regulation.
- ◆ Bulk gasoline terminals and pipeline breakout stations that are major sources of hazardous air pollutants or are located at plant sites that are major sources of hazardous air pollutants are the only sources covered by this rule. Smaller or "area" sources (those that emit air toxics below the threshold set for major sources), such as service stations and bulk plants, will be addressed in subsequent documents.

WHAT DOES THE FINAL STANDARD REQUIRE?

- ◆ The control strategy for this standard is based on pollution prevention measures. Emissions of air toxics are prevented by improving seals on storage tanks and performing leak detection and repair of vapor and liquid leaks from equipment used to transfer gasoline. Also, vapor processors are used to collect and treat or recover vapors displaced during cargo tank loading operations.
- ◆ Existing State and local regulations control sources of gasoline distribution facilities in areas not attaining the national ambient air quality standards for ozone. There are additional existing federal new source performance standards for some of these sources. The final rule supplements and strengthens certain existing levels of control in ozone non-attainment areas and expands the controls nationwide.

Loading of Cargo Tanks

- ◆ The standard requires cargo tank (tank trucks and railcar) loading rack emissions at both new and existing facilities be collected and processed to limit emissions to no more than 10 milligrams total organic compound per liter (mg TOC/liter) of gasoline loaded.
- ◆ Cargo tanks that load at both new and existing bulk gasoline terminals are required to test for and repair all leaks annually, and are subject to year-round standards and test procedures.

Gasoline Storage Tanks

- ◆ The final standard for new and existing facilities requires floating-roof gasoline storage tanks to be equipped with specified types of primary and secondary rim seals. In addition, fixed-roof storage tanks must be equipped with internal floating roofs with specified types of primary seals. Installation of gaskets on floating roof fittings are required on all new tanks and when installing the specified rim seals on existing internal floating roof tanks.

Leaks from Equipment

- ◆ Leaks from equipment - such as pumps, valves, and connectors, must be controlled by adopting a monthly visual equipment leak detection and repair program.

WHAT COMPLIANCE MONITORING IS REQUIRED?

Vapor Processors

- ◆ The standard requires an initial performance test followed by continuous monitoring of specified operating parameters. The value of the monitoring parameter is to be established based on data collected during the performance test.

Storage Tanks

- ◆ Inspections of storage tank seal conditions and operations are required under the final standard. The frequency of inspection is specified for each tank and seal type (varies from annual to every five years, or when the tank is filled or cleaned).

Cargo Tanks

- ◆ The final standard requires biweekly inspection of terminal records to ensure that cargo tank loading at the terminal has passed the required annual leak-tightness test. Cargo tanks are also subject to year-round pressure standards and test procedures.

Equipment Leaks

- ◆ The standard requires monthly visual inspection and a record of all leaks that are identified and repaired.

HOW MUCH WILL THE FINAL STANDARD COST?

- ◆ The one-time capital cost of the rule is estimated to be \$117 million. The annualized cost of the rule is projected to be \$16 million.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act board of the EPA's electronic Technology Transfer Network bulletin board by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access the board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the rule, contact Stephen Shedd at (919) 541-5397.