

## **Final Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for the Pulp and Paper Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources: Fact Sheet**

---

### **ACTION**

- On October 2, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Pulp and Paper Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources.
- This action will help ensure compliance with existing emission limits and reduce the likelihood of exceedances through increased frequency of emissions testing, updated monitoring requirements, and updated recordkeeping and reporting.
- The Pulp Mill Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources NESHAP was issued, pursuant to section 112(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), in January 2001 and amended in 2003.
- Following a residual risk review and technology review, the EPA is:
  - Reducing the opacity monitoring allowance from six percent to two percent for recovery furnaces and six percent to three percent for lime kilns.
- In addition, the EPA is making several other changes to the rule:
  - Adding electronic reporting requirements for semiannual compliance reports.
  - Updating ongoing monitoring and testing requirements for emission monitoring systems.
  - Requiring periodic stack testing and electronic reporting of stack test results.
  - Removing exemptions for startup, shutdown and malfunction (SSM).
- The EPA is issuing these amendments to improve the effectiveness of the rule. Because risks were found to be acceptable, the EPA is not finalizing any specific amendment to reduce residual risk.

### **RESIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

- The CAA requires the EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final air toxics standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- After assessing the risk from exposure to toxic air emissions from chemical recovery combustion sources at pulp and paper facilities, the EPA is finalizing its determination that the emission standards provide an acceptable level of risk with an ample margin of safety to protect public health.
- The maximum individual cancer risk for the source category is estimated to be 4-in-1 million. The risks are low and well within what is considered acceptable.

## TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

- The CAA requires the EPA to assess the review and revise air toxics standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since the EPA issued the standards.
- The technology assessment did not identify any practices, processes or control technologies that were not already required by the Pulp Mill Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources NESHAP or considered in its development. The EPA did identify some minor improvements to these practices, processes or control technologies that warrant revisions to the NESHAP for this source category (*i.e.*, lower opacity standards).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rule notice, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/kraft-soda-sulfite-and-stand-alone-semichemical-pulp-mills-mact-ii>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
  - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0741.
- For further technical information about the rule, contact Dr. Kelley Spence, of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-3158 or [spence.kelley@epa.gov](mailto:spence.kelley@epa.gov).