

FACT SHEET

Proposed Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities

ACTION

- On August 6, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to amend the 2003 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities.
- EPA is proposing these amendments to enhance the effectiveness of the rule by improving compliance with federal air emissions standards and increasing efficiency of data submissions.
- The amendments proposed in this action affect all facilities engaged in the production of steel from iron ore and includes the processes of sinter production, iron production, steel production, and related processes (such as hot metal transfer and desulfurization).
- On May 20, 2003, EPA issued the air toxics standards for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities and amended the rule on July 17, 2006.
- In 2005, EPA granted a Sierra Club petition for reconsideration of a possible mercury standard, and pursuant to CAA sections 112(d)(2) and 112(d)(3), in this action, EPA is proposing an emission limit for mercury that originates in scrap metal used by these facilities as input for making steel.
- Facilities can comply with the proposed mercury limit by:
 - Conducting an annual stack test of their basic oxygen process furnace and related units, and calculating the amount of mercury per ton of scrap processed;
 - Certifying that they purchase scrap metal from vendors who participate in the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program or another EPA-approved program; and
 - Using scrap not likely to contain automobile scrap (which is the main source of mercury).
- Following a residual risk and technology review conducted under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is also proposing to:
 - Revise requirements for periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction to be consistent with recent court decisions; and
 - Require electronic reporting of compliance reports and performance tests.
- In this action, EPA is also soliciting comment on the cost and effectiveness of potential work practices that could be implemented at facilities in this source category to reduce fugitive emissions from intermittent sources.
- EPA will accept comment on the proposed amendments for 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

RESIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- The CAA requires EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final air toxics

standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment. Based on the completed risk assessment, available health information and associated uncertainties, EPA determined risks from the Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing sector to be acceptable and that the current standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health.

- The maximum lifetime individual cancer risk for inhalation for the source category is estimated to be 20-in-1 million. The maximum chronic noncancer hazard index is less than 1 and the maximum acute hazard quotient is 3.

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

- The CAA also requires EPA to review and revise the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since the standards were first issued.
- The technology assessment for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities did not identify any technological developments that would further reduce hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from point sources.
- However, EPA is asking for comment on seven non-point sources of metal HAP emissions from iron and steelmaking processes and potential work practices that could be applied to minimize these emissions.

BACKGROUND

- The CAA requires EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from categories of industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group or “source category.” These MACT standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the best-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within 8 years of setting MACT standards, the CAA directs EPA to assess the remaining health risks from each source category to determine whether the MACT standards protect public health with an ample margin of safety and protect against adverse environmental effects. This second phase is a “risk-based” approach called residual risk. Here, EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every 8 years after setting MACT standards, the CAA requires that EPA review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for developments in practices, processes, or control technologies for reducing air pollution.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting

comments.

- Send comments by email to: *a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov*, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083.
- Fax your comments to: (202) 566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083.
- Mail your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083.
- Deliver comments in person to: EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, DC. Note: In-person deliveries (including courier deliveries) are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation. Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the proposed rule notice, go to EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/integrated-iron-and-steel-manufacturing-national-emission-standards>.
- Today's action notice and other background information are also available either electronically at <https://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 the EPA Headquarters library, 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 proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083.
- For additional technical information about the rule, contact Dr. Donna Lee Jones at the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-5251 or at *jones.donnalee@epa.gov*.