

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR PHOSPHORIC ACID MANUFACTURING

ACTION

- On October 29, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized an amendment to the 2015 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing.
- On September 6, 2016, PCS Phosphate Company, Inc. (now a subsidiary of Nutrien Ltd.) petitioned EPA to review the 2015 NESHAP based on newly available data.
- Following analysis of the petitioner's data, EPA is revising the mercury maximum achievable control technology (MACT) floor for existing calciners from 0.14 milligrams per dry standard cubic meter (mg/dscm) at 3-percent oxygen to 0.23 mg/dscm at 3-percent oxygen.

BACKGROUND

- The CAA requires EPA to regulate hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), also known as air toxics, from categories of industrial facilities.
- EPA develops technology-based standards for controlling the emissions of HAPs 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 sources in an industry.
- In 1999, the Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing NESHAP established MACT standards for calciners using particulate matter as a surrogate for hazardous air pollutant metals, including mercury.
- In 2015, EPA amended the Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing NESHAP and set numerical mercury limits for calciners in the source category.
 - PCS Phosphate in Aurora, North Carolina, was the only facility in the source category operating calciners; therefore, data from that facility were used as the basis for the MACT floor.
- In 2016, compliance tests for calciners at PCS's Aurora facility indicated mercury emissions near or higher than the MACT floor.
- PCS Phosphate requested that EPA review the mercury standard based on additional data which indicate the 2015 NESHAP did not accurately represent emissions under normal operating loads.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule notice from EPA's website

at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/phosphate-fertilizer-production-plants-and-phosphoric-acid>.

- Today's action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system. For further technical information about the rule, contact John Feather, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-3052 or feather.john@epa.gov.