

**FACT SHEET**  
**FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARDS**  
**FOR GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES**

**ACTION**

- On December 20, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued air toxics standards for smaller emitting sources, called area sources, that distribute and store gasoline, including bulk terminals and plants, pipeline facilities and loading of storage tanks at gasoline dispensing facilities.
- The Clean Air Act defines two types of stationary sources that emit air toxics: major sources and area sources. This rule regulates smaller emitting gasoline distribution and all gasoline dispensing facilities as area sources.
- Area sources are those that have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or less than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants. Sources that emit more than these amounts are called "major" sources. In 1994, EPA issued final rules for the larger "major source" bulk terminals and pipeline facilities.
- The final rules will limit air toxics emissions from two types of area sources: bulk gasoline distribution facilities (such as bulk terminals and plants, pipeline facilities), and storage tanks at gasoline dispensing facilities.
- At gasoline distribution terminals and the smaller bulk plants, gasoline is stored and loaded into trucks for delivery to gasoline stations. Pipeline facilities pump gasoline along the pipeline, sometimes temporarily storing it until it is re-injected into the pipeline for distribution to gasoline terminals. The final rules cover all smaller facilities nationwide.
- The final rules require the following for bulk distribution facilities nationwide.
  - Best seals on most storage tanks at terminals and pipeline facilities;
  - Use of submerged fill pipes when loading storage tanks at bulk plants;
  - Vapor processors to control tank truck loadings at most bulk terminals;
  - Use of submerged fill pipes to control tank truck loading emissions at bulk plants and small bulk terminals;
  - Leak testing of tank trucks and railcars; and
  - Checking for leaks and using good housekeeping procedures to prevent evaporation of gasoline.
- All gasoline dispensing facilities (such as service stations, convenience stores, and rental and fleet service centers) are covered by today's final rules. The rules require control of the loading of the storage tank only. Vehicle refueling emissions are controlled under a separate air toxic national standard.

- The final rules require the following for gasoline dispensing facilities nationwide:
  - At all facilities, checking for leaks and using good housekeeping procedures to prevent evaporation of gasoline, and
  - At facilities with monthly gasoline throughputs of 10,000 gallons or more , submerged fill pipes when loading storage tanks, and
  - At facilities with monthly gasoline throughputs of 100,000 gallons or more, vapor balancing between the storage tank and the tank truck.

## **BENEFITS AND COST**

- Most facilities already comply with the final standards. We estimate about 14,000 facilities will need additional controls.
- The standards will annually reduce about 100,000 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in gasoline vapors. That VOC reduction includes about 5,000 tons of hazardous air pollutants, which includes about 175 tons of benzene. These reductions represent about a 22 percent reduction of emissions from this source category.
- EPA estimates the capital costs of these final standards at \$75 million. There will be an annual benefit of about \$6.5 million for the rules. The value of the recovered gasoline and gasoline not allowed to evaporate will more than pay for the annual cost of the capital expenditures and the operation and maintenance of the equipment.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of 187 listed toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- For major sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest-emitting (also called best-performing) plants. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- Further, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to (1) identify the toxic air pollutants that pose the greatest threat to public health in urban areas and (2) identify and list the

area source categories that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the urban air toxics associated with area sources and regulate them to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.

- EPA published the Strategy on July 19, 1999, in the *Federal Register* that included:
  - A list of the 33 air toxics that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Of these 33 urban air toxics, EPA has identified the 30 with the greatest contribution from smaller commercial and industrial operations or "area" sources, as defined in the Clean Air Act. (See <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/list33.html> for the full list.)
  - A list of 29 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 listed air toxics. Subsequent notices published on June 26 and November 22, 2002, added 41 source categories to this list of area sources and fulfilled the Clean Air Act requirement to identify and list area source categories at least 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 “listed” (or area source) HAPs. The gasoline distribution source category included in today’s final rule is included in this list of area sources. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>.
- As of June 2007, EPA has regulated 28 of these 70 source categories and is working under court ordered schedules to issue the remaining area source rules listed under the Urban Air Toxics Strategy.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's website on the Internet under recently signed rules at the following address: [www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html).
- For additional information, visit the EPA's website at: [www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/gasdist/gasdispg.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/gasdist/gasdispg.html), or contact Stephen A. Shedd of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5397 or by e-mail at [shedd.steve@epa.gov](mailto:shedd.steve@epa.gov).