

## FACT SHEET

### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NONMETALLIC MINERALS PROCESSING PLANTS

#### ACTION

- On April 16, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to revise the Agency's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Nonmetallic Minerals Processing Plants. These NSPS regulate stack and fugitive Particulate Matter (PM) emissions. There are no emissions of other criteria pollutants (e.g., NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) or greenhouse gases from this source category.
- The proposed revisions apply to new, modified, and reconstructed facilities constructed after the date of this proposal at plants that process any of the following 18 nonmetallic minerals:
  - crushed and broken stone
  - sand and gravel
  - clay
  - rock salt
  - gypsum
  - sodium compounds
  - pumice
  - gilsonite
  - talc and pyrophyllite
  - boron
  - barite
  - fluorospar
  - feldspar
  - diatomite
  - perlite
  - vermiculite
  - mica
  - kyanite
- The affected processes are: new, modified, or reconstructed crusher, grinding mill, screening operation, bucket elevator, belt conveyor, bagging operation, storage bin, and enclosed truck or railcar loading station at nonmetallic minerals processing plants.
- These revisions would reduce the emission limits for PM. The stack PM concentration would be reduced from 0.022 grams per dry standard cubic foot (gr/dscf) to 0.014 gr/dscf for new, modified, and reconstructed facilities.
- Opacity limits would also be reduced. For crushers, the proposed reduction is from 15% to 12%. For other types of fugitive affected facilities, the proposed reduction in opacity limits would be from 10% to 7%. These revised emission limits can be met by future affected facilities using the same control measures used presently.
- Other proposed revisions include requiring repeat performance testing once every five years for affected facilities that do not have ongoing monitoring requirements.
- Also, EPA is proposing to exempt wet material processing operations that have no potential for PM emissions.

- The proposed revisions to the NSPS for nonmetallic minerals processing plants would not reflect the use of any new or different control technologies; they reflect the performance of current control technologies. Therefore, these revisions would have little economic impact on new sources averaging \$ 1,900 per facility. This increase is due to costs associated with testing, monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping. By the 5th year following promulgation, we estimate 322 new nonmetallic minerals processing plants will be affected. EPA estimates the PM emission reductions to be 120 tons per year.
- In this action EPA is also proposing one clarifying amendment to the NSPS for Calciners and Dryers in Mineral Industries. The proposed amendment clarifies that the NSPS does not apply to thermal sand reclamation processes at metal foundries.
- There are no cost, environmental, or energy impacts associated with today's proposed amendment to clarify the NSPS for Calciners and Dryers in Mineral Industries.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- EPA will hold a public hearing, if requested. The Agency is under a consent decree to finalize this rule by April 16, 2009.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The NSPS for nonmetallic minerals processing plants was promulgated on August 1, 1985.
- EPA reviewed this NSPS and final revisions were promulgated on June 9, 1997. On November 28, 2005, the Sierra Club notified EPA of their intent to sue for failure to review the nonmetallic minerals processing plants NSPS. A Consent Order was signed on October 16, 2006. This Order set deadlines for the proposal and promulgation of any revisions. These dates are April 16, 2008 and April 16, 2009 respectively.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the final rules, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>, under Recent Additions.
- Today's proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, 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 in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 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-2007-1018.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-1018 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
  - E-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov))
  - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
  - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Bill Neuffer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) at (919) 541-5435 or [neuffer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:neuffer.bill@epa.gov).