

## FACT SHEET

### POTENTIAL TO EMIT GUIDANCE FOR SPECIFIC SOURCES

#### **Today's Action...**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing guidance to assist States in clarifying the minor source status of low-emitting sources in eight industries (also referred to as "source categories"). The guidance provides technical information States can use in evaluating and limiting the "potential to emit" for sources in these eight source categories. The interpretation of the term "potential to emit" is crucial in determining whether a source is subject to requirements of the Act for "major" sources, or whether the source is a "minor" source not subject to these requirements.
- ! The eight source categories EPA addresses in this guidance are: gasoline service stations, gasoline bulk plants, boilers, cotton gins, coating sources, printing, degreasers using volatile organic solvents, and hot mix asphalt plants. For each category, the guidance contains calculated cutoffs that represent levels of operation that would result in minor emission amounts (i.e., classification as a minor source). For many sources in these categories, actual operations fall well below these cutoffs, but "potential" operations (e.g., operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) are above the cutoffs, or are uncertain.
- ! Most State and local air agencies would need a rulemaking process to make use of this guidance. Such a rulemaking at the State or local level would translate the guidance into a system where source owners within the eight industries could easily ensure their minor source status by agreeing to limit their emissions to amounts below the calculated cutoffs.
- ! Many State and local agencies have already addressed the issue of the emission potential of small sources. States and local agencies have the flexibility to adopt this guidance or continue with existing programs to address the emission potential of facilities within these eight industries.
- ! The guidance begins the process of phasing out a January 25, 1995 "transition policy" in which sources are treated by EPA as minor sources if actual emissions are less than 50 percent of the major source threshold.

#### **For Further Information**

- ! Interested parties can obtain more information about EPA's guidance from EPA's web site at: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pgm.html> OR <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t5pgm.html>). For questions concerning the guidance, contact your EPA Regional Office, or Tim Smith of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-4718.