

8/6/99

FACT SHEET

EPA Proposes Allowing State/Local Permitting Authorities More Time To Require Permits for Small Sources in Five Source Categories of Toxic Air Pollutants

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! EPA is proposing to allow state and local air permitting agencies an additional five years to require permits for small sources in five categories of industries that emit toxic air pollutants.
- ! The five categories of small sources (called “area sources”) are: halogenated solvent cleaning; ethylene oxide sterilizers; perchloroethylene dry cleaners; chromium electroplating; and secondary lead smelters.
- ! EPA is proposing the additional time in order to relieve the burden on tens of thousands of “area” sources, many of which are small businesses. Most area sources do not have the technical staff to apply for permits and rely on state and local permitting agencies to help them through the process. However, many permitting agencies currently are focused on permitting thousands of larger sources of air toxics known as “major sources.”
- ! A “major source” has the potential to emit more than 10 tons a year of a single toxic air pollutant, or more than 25 tons of a combination of toxic air pollutants. Sources with emissions below these levels are known as “area sources.”
- ! Today’s proposal would give permitting agencies the option of waiting until Dec. 9, 2004 to require permits for the area sources in these five categories. Permitting agencies could give those sources until Dec. 9, 2005 to apply for a permit.
- ! The proposal applies only to permits known as “Title V permits.” The proposal does NOT exempt area sources from pollution control requirements. It simply allows permitting agencies to defer the requirement that these sources get permits.
- ! If the source is located within a facility that is major or must obtain a Clean Air Act permit for other reasons, all requirements applying to the source must be included in that permit.

(more)

BACKGROUND

- ! Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 included requirements that all states develop operating permits programs that meet certain federal criteria. The states, in turn, must require pollution sources to obtain permits that contain all of the appropriate Clean Air Act requirements.
- ! However, EPA later determined that the original deadlines for area sources to apply for those permits were impracticable and unnecessarily burdensome. In June 1996, EPA amended the air toxics standards applying to the five source categories to authorize states to defer the requirements that smaller “area” sources apply for Clean Air Act permits. That deferral expires Dec. 9, 1999. Today’s proposal would extend the current deferral an additional five years.
- ! The comment period for this proposal ends 30 days from the date of Federal Register publication, unless someone requests a public hearing (within 21 days after publication), in which case the comment period will end 60 days after the publication date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download the notice of this proposal from EPA's World Wide Web site, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html> For additional information, call Rick Colyer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5262.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation’s home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.