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10-30-98

FEDERAL PLAN FOR LARGE EXISTING MUNICIPAL WASTE

COMBUSTORS

TODAY'S ACTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adopting a Federal municipal waste combustor (MWC) units constructed on or before 1994. The Federal Plan is a set of requirements that implement emission guidelines, which were revised in 1997. This regulation covers large existing MWC units not specifically covered by an approved State plan. MWCs built after 1994 are covered by the Federal new source performance standards.

The Federal plan fills a gap until State plans are approved and MWC units stay on track to complete pollution control equipment retrofits to meet the final statutory compliance date of December 19, 2000. The Federal plan no longer applies when a State plan is approved.

To make the transition as smooth as possible between the Federal and subsequently approved State plans, EPA incorporated compliance requirements already negotiated with MWC owners and operators into the final Federal plan.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

Implementation of the MWC emission guidelines through the Federal plan will reduce toxic air pollutant emissions by 112,000 tons annually. The standards reduce dioxin emissions by 99 percent, as well as other toxic air pollutants like mercury, lead, and cadmium.

Emissions from MWCs contain organic emissions (dioxins/furans), heavy metals emissions (cadmium, lead, mercury, particulate matter), and acid gases (hydrogen chloride, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides). These emissions can cause adverse effects to the public health and the environment. Dioxin, lead and mercury can bioaccumulate in the environment and contribute to the acid rain that damages lakes and harms forests. Additionally, nitrogen oxides emissions can contribute to global warming, which is associated with a number of adverse health and environmental effects.

This Federal plan ensures that emission limits and other requirements are in place for MWC units located in States that have not submitted their own plans. The Federal plan ensures that the MWC rules are implemented as soon as the plans are approved, thus ensuring the health and environmental protection of the 1995 rules.

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner has said about the MWC rule proposal will result in a major reduction in dioxin emissions from municipal incinerators. It represents the strongest action taken to control emissions from municipal incinerators. It is part of the Administration's aggressive efforts to protect the health of the public.

The table below shows emission reductions expected from controlling existing MWC plants.

Pollutant	Typical Uncontrolled Level	Typical Controlled Level	Percent Reduction
Dioxin/furan (ng/dscm) total mass	1,000	3	99.7
PM (mg/dscm)	3,700	4	99.9
Cd (mg/dscm)	1.2	0.001	99.9
Pb (mg/dscm)	25	0.01	99.6
Hg (mg/dscm)	0.65	0.02	97.0
SO ₂ (ppmv)	160	5	96.9
HCl (ppmv)	500	10	98.0
NO _x (ppmv)	225	130	42.2

BACKGROUND

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required EPA to establish emission guidelines for MWC units, based on the determination that MWC units may significantly contribute to, air pollution that may reasonably be expected to endanger public health or welfare. EPA finalized MWC emission guidelines in 1995 and revised these guidelines in 1997. The rules will require significant reductions for pollutants of concern.

The Clean Air Act requires States with affected MWC units to submit State implementation plans to implement and enforce the MWC emission guidelines after EPA finalizes the MWC guidelines (i.e. by December 1997).

If a State with existing MWC units did not submit an approved State implementation plan within two years of the final MWC emission guidelines (i.e. December 1997), EPA is required under the Act to develop, implement, and enforce a Federal plan for MWC units in that State.

By adopting this MWC Federal plan, EPA is fulfilling its obligation to enforce MWC emission limits and other requirements for MWC units in States that have not submitted an approved State implementation plan.

approved plans. The Federal plan applies to large MWC unit approves a State plan that covers those units.

The Federal plan has the same elements as a State plan, inc emission inventories, emission limits, testing, monitoring, requirements, as well as generic or site-specific complianc increments of progress.

WHAT MWC UNITS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FEDERAL PLAN?

The Federal plan will apply to all large units (units with greater than 250 tons of municipal waste per day) that bega September 20, 1994 that are not covered in an approved Stat the MWC regulations affect plants in 24 states. As of the EPA has approved State plans for Florida, Georgia, Illinois York, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee. At this time, will be covered by the Federal plan: Alabama, California, C Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hamp Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washing

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Interested parties can download the MWC Federal plan from E the Internet under "Proposed and Final Preambles and Rules" address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3main.html>.

All related documents can be found on the Unified Air Toxic <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/129/mwc/rimwc.html>. For further the MWC Federal plan, contact Ms. Julie Andresen McClintock of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5339. E

about the MWC final emission guidelines, contact Mr. Walt S
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5

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