

FACT SHEET

NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR PETROLEUM REFINERIES

ACTION

- On April 30, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the new source performance standards (NSPS) for petroleum refineries, and separate standards of performance for new, modified, or reconstructed process units at petroleum refineries.
- The amendments reflect demonstrated improvements in emission control technologies and work practices that have occurred since promulgation of the current standards for petroleum refineries. They also add and revise definitions of certain terms, and correct miscellaneous errors.
- The standards for process units include emissions limits for fluid catalytic cracking units, fluid coking units, process heaters and other fuel gas combustion devices, and sulfur recovery plants that are constructed, modified, or reconstructed after the date of proposal. The standards also include options for the control of emissions through work practices.
- Compliance provisions will include a variety of monitoring alternatives suitable for the type of unit, control device, and pollutant. Plants will be required to monitor control device operating parameters, operate bag leak detection systems, or use continuous emission monitoring systems. Exemptions will be allowed for fluid catalytic cracking units and fluid coking units with low emissions of carbon monoxide and for low-sulfur streams from fuel gas combustion devices.
- Over the next 5 years, the final standards for new process units are projected to reduce the combined emissions of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides from 30 petroleum refineries by nearly 31,000 tons per year
- The cost savings from energy recovery associated with flare gas recovery and flare management plans is estimated to be about \$7 million per year.

BACKGROUND

- The criteria pollutants emitted from petroleum refineries include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides. Emissions

of these compounds may cause or contribute to air pollutant emissions which endanger public health or welfare.

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of criteria pollutants from categories of major stationary sources. The new source performance standards must reflect the application of the best system of emissions reductions which EPA determines has been adequately demonstrated. This level of control is commonly referred to as the best demonstrated technology.
- The Clean Air Act also requires EPA to review the standards every 8 years and revise the standards, as necessary, to reflect improvements in methods for reducing emissions. The standards of performance for petroleum refineries were initially issued in 1974 and have been amended several times. The current standards apply to fluid catalytic cracking unit catalyst regenerators, fuel gas combustion devices, and Claus sulfur recovery plants.
- EPA is bound by a consent decree deadline to issue final rules by April 30, 2008.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the final action from EPA's website, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.
- Today's final rule amendments 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 Ave., 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 action can be accessed using Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0011).
- For further information about the proposed rules, contact Mr. Robert B. Lucas of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0884 or lucas.bob@epa.gov.