

5/23/02

FACT SHEET

CONSOLIDATED EMISSIONS REPORTING RULE

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! In today's action, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing states with additional flexibility in the way they collect and report emissions data and with the frequency with which it is reported. EPA is reducing the frequency for reporting some emissions data while providing flexibility for how data are supplied to EPA.
- ! EPA is also allowing state and local agencies the flexibility of reporting their 3-year cycle inventories every 3 years or breaking the reporting into thirds, with a third of the appropriate emissions being reported each year. The same option for reporting is being made available for some point sources. EPA believes that this flexibility will enable states to better manage their emission inventory workload.
- ! EPA is also requiring state and local agencies to report area and mobile source emissions statewide. Statewide reporting of air emissions from large industrial facilities known as "point sources" has been an existing requirement for many years.
- ! Additionally, EPA is requiring state and local agencies to collect fine particle (PM_{2.5}) emissions data. PM_{2.5} includes airborne particles equal to and less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.
- ! Ammonia is a precursor of PM_{2.5}, it can react in the atmosphere to form fine particles. Today's final rule will require state and local air agencies to collect and report ammonia emissions. Initially this requirement will apply only to small sources of air pollution such as dry cleaners (known as area sources) and mobile sources including cars, trucks, and construction equipment.
- ! This action also provides flexibility in how agencies submit air emission data to EPA. Rather than entering their emissions data directly, state and local agencies may choose to make their data available to EPA and EPA will enter it into the federal data base.

BACKGROUND

- ! An emission inventory is a tabulation of all of the sources of air pollutant emissions, complete with the emissions from these sources, in a given area. Emission inventories are fundamental building blocks used to develop an air quality control and maintenance strategy on a local, regional and national level.
- ! The purpose of this consolidated reporting rule is to simplify reporting, offer options for data collection and exchange, and unify reporting dates for various categories of inventories.

Previous reporting requirements have, at times, forced reporting agencies into inefficient collecting and reporting activities. This consolidated rule provides options for collecting and reporting that allows an agency to match its normal activities with federal reporting requirements. This action consolidates the numerous emission inventory reporting requirements found in various parts of the Clean Air Act.

- ! This action is being taken at the direct request of numerous state and local agencies. Consolidation of reporting requirements enables these agencies to better explain to program managers and the public the necessity for a consistent inventory program, increases the efficiency of the emission inventory program, and provides more consistent and uniform data. This action includes features that will reduce portions of the reporting burden. However, because of new requirements for PM_{2.5} and its precursor ammonia and new requirements for the reporting of emissions statewide, the net reporting burden on the states will increase as a result of this rule.

HOW WILL THIS RULE AFFECT THE NATIONAL EMISSION INVENTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE QUALITY OF THE DATA?

- ! The information supplied by this streamlined emissions reporting requirement will improve EPA's ability to compile a national inventory of air pollutant emissions of known and consistent quality and make it available to the public and to policy makers.
- ! Clarifying and consolidating reporting requirements and providing options for complying will increase the efficiency with which state and local programs are able to operate.

WILL THERE BE COST SAVINGS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

- ! This rule will reduce the reporting burden on state and local governments by reducing the frequency of reporting for some point sources. These savings will be more than offset by the need for new particulate information and the need for the statewide reporting of area and mobile source emissions. These new data are necessary to protect public health and the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- ! Anyone with access to a computer and a modem may download the final rule directly through the World Wide Web at: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief>). For further information about the rule, contact Bill Kuykendal at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5372.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on many air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).

