

**April 3, 2001**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **DIRECT FINAL RULE AMENDING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS) FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY AND INDUSTRIAL-COMMERCIAL-INSTITUTIONAL STEAM GENERATING UNITS**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking direct final action to amend the emissions monitoring and compliance provisions for steam generating units used in industrial-commercial-institutional processes and in electricity production.
- ! EPA is adopting these amendments to ensure that all owners and/or operators of duct burners, a combustion device used to heat exhaust gases before steam generation, have similar compliance requirements and similar exemptions for their monitoring requirements.
- ! This rule affects electric utility combined cycle facilities built on or after September 18, 1978 and industrial combined cycle systems built on or after June 19, 1984.
- ! EPA is publishing this direct final rule without prior proposal because the agency views the action as a noncontroversial amendment and does not anticipate adverse comments. However, if EPA receives significant adverse comments on the amendments to either of the standards, we will withdraw the notice and carefully evaluate the comments before taking any final action.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act EPA is required to set new source performance standards (NSPS). These standards are uniform national air emission standards that limit the amount of air pollution allowed from new sources or modified existing sources.
- ! In September 1998, EPA published revised NSPS for emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from both new utility boilers and new industrial boilers. These standards are based on the performance of the of best control technologies used by comparable facilities. These revisions also changed the NO<sub>x</sub> emission limit for new electric utility steam generating units from a heat input basis to an electrical output basis to promote energy efficiency.
- ! Since the September 1998 rule was promulgated, EPA became concerned, based on inquiries with stakeholders and permitting agencies, about how gross output from a duct burner would

actually be measured and monitored, and how the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions attributable to duct burners can be continuously monitored.

- ! Duct burners contribute only a portion of the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions emitted from industrial-commercial-institutional and energy production combined cycle units. The remaining portion is attributed to the combustion turbine which is also regulated under NSPS.
- ! The changes contained in today's direct final rule apply to owners or operators of duct burners used in a combined cycle system which have a heat input greater than 100 million Btu/hour for industrial-commercial-institutional units and greater than 250 million Btu/hour for electric utility units.
- ! A combined cycle system consists of a gas turbine, or internal combustion engine, etc., to which a heat recovery steam generating unit is added. This unit produces steam that is then used to produce electricity or used in an industrial process.
- ! A duct burner is a device that combusts fuel. It is placed in the exhaust duct from another source, such as a stationary gas turbine, internal combustion engine, etc., to allow the firing of additional fuel to heat the exhaust gases before the exhaust gases enter a heat recovery steam generating unit.

### **EFFECT OF THIS ACTION**

- ! The direct final rule does not change the intended coverage of the revised NO<sub>x</sub> standards for NSPS boilers. It will not affect the estimated emissions reductions or the control costs for the rules.
- ! The clarifications and corrections contained in this amendment should make it easier for owners and operators of duct burners and for local and State authorities to understand and implement the applicable requirements in NSPS regulations.
- ! This amendment encourages the use of combined cycle systems. This process increases the efficiency of power generation and supports pollution prevention initiatives.
- ! Specifically, this direct final rule will:
  - , extend the existing monitoring exemption to include those duct burners that become subject to the revised NO<sub>x</sub> standard for NSPS industrial boilers,

- , amend the NSPS for electric utility boilers to include the same monitoring exemption specified in the NSPS for industrial boilers,
- , promulgate an alternative compliance determination procedure that owners and operators can elect for affected duct burners used in combined cycle systems,
- , allow the use of an alternative compliance procedure that is less complex than the current procedure specified for determining compliance. Under this alternative, owners/operators may elect to determine compliance continuously by installing and operating a continuous emissions monitoring system at the outlet from the heat recovery steam generating unit. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions rates measured at the outlet from the heat recovery steam generating unit constitute the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions rate from the duct burner, and
- , provide other flexibilities for monitoring and NOX emissions compliance.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! Interested parties can download the amendments from EPA's web site under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For other information regarding utility and industrial boilers, visit EPA's web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/combust/boiler/boilnsps.html>.
- ! For further information, contact Jim Eddinger at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5426.