

February 28, 1997

FACT SHEET

**Revision of New Source Performance Standards for
Granular Triple Superphosphate Storage Facilities in the
Phosphate Fertilizer Industry**

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reducing the paperwork burden for users of phosphate fertilizers by clarifying the applicability of the new source performance standards (NSPS) for granular triple superphosphate (GTSP) storage facilities in the phosphate fertilizer industry. Today's action is a direct final rule that limits the applicability of the NSPS to those facilities storing fresh GTSP, which has the potential to emit fluoride compounds.
- ◆ This action is intended to remove the paperwork burden that the current regulatory language imposes upon those who distribute and store cured GTSP.
- ◆ EPA worked in partnership with major stakeholders, including industry representatives and States, to develop the clarification.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ Because cured GTSP has virtually no fluoride emissions, this rule ensures the same level of environmental protection as occurred prior to this clarification. Fluoride emissions originating from fresh GTSP will continue to be controlled.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ On August 6, 1975 the Agency promulgated NSPS to limit emissions of total fluoride compounds from several affected facilities in the phosphate fertilizers industry and GTSP storage facilities were included. The main concern which prompted that inclusion was the continued off-gassing of fluorides from fresh GTSP during storage subsequent to the initial reactions associated with the manufacture of GTSP.
- ◆ The language describing the applicability of the NSPS is broadly worded and easily can be read to cover any and everyone storing any amount of GTSP. In its applicability determinations, the Agency had historically taken an inclusive interpretation of the NSPS.
- ◆ Recently, representatives of the Missouri Farmers Association have advised the Agency that its applicability

determinations have led to application of the NSPS to its distribution facilities which store only cured GTSP and which are located far from the point of manufacture. The Missouri Farmers Association have said that application of the NSPS in this instance provides no appreciable benefit to the environment while imposing unproductive paperwork. To support their conclusion, the Missouri Farmers Association provided the Agency test data which indicate that their warehouses, which are typical of distribution facilities, emit less than one pound per year of total fluorides.

WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THE REGULATION?

- ◆ Those facilities which store fresh GTSP, defined as that manufactured within the past three days, will continue to be affected by the NSPS. The purpose of this action is to remove users of cured GTSP, such as farm supply distribution facilities, from the NSPS and its associated paperwork requirements.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF EPA'S PROPOSED RULE?

- ◆ Today's action amends the 1975 rule by clarifying that it only applies to those facilities which store fresh GTSP. The practical effect of the revision is to apply the provisions of the NSPS to those storage facilities which are co-located with GTSP production facilities. This effect is accomplished by means of a work practice through which manufacturers will hold fresh GTSP in storage until it has cured prior to shipment to their customers. Also, the clarification updates the definition of "fresh GTSP," along with the accompanying testing protocol.

HOW MUCH WOULD THE RULE COST?

- ◆ The rule will achieve a savings through reduced paperwork to users of GTSP such as the Missouri Farmers Association.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

- ◆ Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the proposed rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board of EPA's electronic Technology Transfer Network (TTN) by calling (919) 541-5742 (look under "Recently Signed Rules"). For further information about how to access the board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the proposed rule, contact David Painter of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5515.