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FACT SHEET

FINAL REVISIONS TO THE NONMETALLIC MINERAL PROCESSING PLANTS NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS)

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today promulgating revisions to its New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants. The standards apply to new, modified, and reconstructed facilities.
- Affected facilities are located at plants that process any of the 18 nonmetallic minerals, such as crushed and broken stone, sand and gravel, clay, and gypsum, to produce products such as bricks, wallboard, insulation, and material used in road construction. In processing these nonmetallic minerals, facilities emit particulate matter.
- EPA's revisions to the nonmetallic mineral processing NSPS will substantially reduce recordkeeping and reporting requirements, as well as emissions testing requirements for affected facilities while still maintaining an equivalent level of environmental protection.
- EPA worked in partnership with the National Stone Association(NSA) and State and local air pollution control agencies to revise the NSPS.

BACKGROUND.

- In 1985 EPA issued a NSPS that regulated particulate matter emissions from Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants. Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to review and, if appropriate, revise NSPS at least every 8 years.
- On January 28, 1995, the NSA petitioned EPA to review the existing NSPS for nonmetallic mineral processing plants. In its petition, the NSA and its member companies requested that EPA review and consider revising the provisions in the NSPS that pertain to test methods and procedures. NSA also requested that several of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements be reduced or eliminated. EPA has been working with the NSA and state and local governments to revise and streamline the requirements of the NSPS.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL REVISIONS?

- EPA's New Source Performance Standards apply to new, modified, and reconstructed facilities that process any of the following 18 nonmetallic minerals; crushed and broken stone, sand and gravel, clay, rock salt, gypsum, sodium compounds, pumice, gilsonite, talc and pyrophyllite, boron, barite, fluorospar, feldspar, diatomite, perlite, vermiculite, mica

and kyanite.

HOW DO THE FINAL REVISIONS PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY AND COST SAVINGS TO AFFECTED INDUSTRIES?

- EPA's final revisions to the NSPS will decrease the time and costs incurred by the affected industries due to the reduction in emission testing, recordkeeping and reporting requirements. EPA estimates that the final revisions will reduce the average annual recordkeeping and reporting burden and cost per facility by 340 hours and \$11,300 respectively.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF EPA'S FINAL REVISIONS?

These revisions will result in the following changes in the 1985 NSPS:

- 1) EPA will waive the requirement in the General Provisions for notification of the anticipated date of initial startup of a facility. The General Provisions are a set of recording, reporting, and other requirements that apply to facilities affected by NSPS. EPA issued the General Provisions in November 1975. EPA has determined that this notification is redundant as facilities are required to report the date of construction as well as the actual date of initial startup.
- 2) In a production line where affected facilities begin operating simultaneously, EPA requires a single notification of the actual date of initial startup for a combination of affected facilities instead of separate notices for each affected facility.
- 3) If an existing facility is replaced with a new facility of equal or smaller size, the facility must submit a report to one of EPA's regional offices.
- 4) Under certain conditions, EPA reduces the 3-hour performance test for opacity readings of fugitive emissions from affected facilities to 1 hour.
- 5) Because a certain type of emissions testing (known as "Method 5") of a vent from a single storage bin is difficult due to low and intermittent air flows, EPA no longer requires Method 5 testing. Instead, emission testing of individual, enclosed storage bins ducted to a single baghouse is determined by 1-hour "Method 9" opacity readings.
- 6) If a performance test is rescheduled, EPA will be notified 7 days prior to the date of the rescheduled test instead of the previous requirement of 30 days.
- 7) Wet screening operations and subsequent belt conveyors, screening operations, and bucket elevators up to the next crusher, grinding mill, or storage bin are exempt from "Method 9" opacity tests because there is no potential for particulate emissions as the material being processed is saturated with water. EPA requires these sources to comply with a no visible emissions standard. If any of these affected facilities begin to process

unsaturated material, they will become subject to the 10% opacity limit and EPA will require Method 9 opacity tests within 60 days of this change. Belt conveyors, screening operations, and bucket elevators in the production line downstream of wet mining operations up to the first crusher, grinding mill or storage bin are similarly covered.

8) This rule clarifies that facilities at underground mines and stand-alone screening operations at plants without crushers or grinding mills are not subject to the NSPS.

9) This rule clarifies that crushers and grinding mills that reduce the size of nonmetallic minerals and subsequent affected facilities up to but not including the first storage silo or bin at recycled asphalt plants are subject to this NSPS.

10) To assist small businesses and other industries in being able to better understand some of the NSPS requirements, EPA has included a table clarifying which parts of the General Provisions apply.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

- Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board (under “Recently Signed Rules”) of EPA’s Technology Transfer Network (TTN) by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access the board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the final revisions to the rule, call Bill Neuffer of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5435.
- EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation’s home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation’s home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).