

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR THE FERROALLOYS PRODUCTION AREA SOURCE FACILITIES

ACTION

- On September 9, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed air toxics standards for area sources in the ferroalloys production source category. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- EPA is proposing standards for existing and new area sources in the ferroalloys production industry. A ferroalloy is an alloy of iron and one or more other elements, such as chromium, manganese, and/or silicon. Ferroalloys impart distinctive qualities to steel and cast iron and serve important functions during iron and steel production cycles. The proposal would affect an estimated 10 existing facilities.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- EPA will hold a public hearing if requested. The Agency is under a court order to finalize the rule by December 15, 2008.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- The proposed standards would apply to electrometallurgical operations at each existing or new ferroalloy area source that produces silicon metal, ferrosilicon, ferrovanadium, ferromolybdenum, calcium silicon, silicomanganese zirconium, ferrochrome silicon, silvery iron, high-carbon ferrochrome, charge chrome, standard ferromanganese, silicomanganese, ferromanganese silicon, calcium carbide or other ferroalloy products.
- The proposed standards establish a visible emissions (VE) limit. The facility must demonstrate that the control device outlet emissions do not exceed 3 percent of accumulated occurrences in a 60-minute VE observation period.
- The proposed standards also establish a limit for fugitive emissions from the furnace building due to electrometallurgical operations. The facility must demonstrate that the furnace building emissions do not exhibit opacity greater than 20 percent (6-minute average), except for one 6-minute average per hour that does not exceed 40 percent, during the 1-hour observation period.
- Existing facilities are well controlled as a result of State and national standards.

- Emissions from existing electric arc furnaces are already captured and controlled by baghouses and scrubbers; thus, we anticipate that facilities in the source category would not have to install additional controls to meet the proposed standards.
- Facilities would also be required to submit one-time notifications of applicability and compliance status, annual compliance certifications and startup, shutdown, and malfunction reports, and keep records to demonstrate compliance with the proposed rule.
- Affected sources are well-controlled and our proposed standard reflects such controls. We estimate that the only impact associated with the proposed rule is the compliance requirements (monitoring, reporting, recordkeeping and testing), which are estimated to be approximately \$6,100 per facility. The compliance costs on a facility basis are all projected to be much less than 0.1 percent of sales. Five of the ten facilities are small businesses. There is no significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- Further, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to (1) identify the toxic air pollutants that pose the greatest threat to public health in urban areas and (2) identify and list the area source categories that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the urban air toxics associated with area sources and regulate them to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- EPA published the Strategy on July 19, 1999, in the *Federal Register* that included:
 - A list of the 33 air toxics that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Of these 33 urban air toxics, EPA has identified

the 30 with the greatest contribution from smaller commercial and industrial operations or "area" sources, as defined in the Clean Air Act. (See <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/list33.html> for the full list.)

- A list of 29 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 listed air toxics. Subsequent notices published on June 26 and November 22, 2002, added 41 source categories to this list of area sources and fulfilled the Clean Air Act requirement to identify and list area source categories for at least 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 "listed" (or area source) HAPs. The Ferroalloys source category included in today's proposed rule is included in this list of area sources. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the proposed rule, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- Today's proposed rule 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 at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, 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 proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0154.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0154 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
 - E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
 - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or

- Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Conrad Chin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1512 or chin.conrad@epa.gov.