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Air Compliance News

Time Flies – EPA Turns 40

EPA celebrates its 40th birthday in 2010.

In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Only 120 days later, the Clean Air Act passed, and 30 days after that, EPA was required to set criteria for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The speed at which these major regulatory actions were issued is amazing, especially when compared to our current expectation for even relatively small actions to be enacted. From MACT standards (which require detailed information gathering and can affect many facilities) to Permits for individual facilities, tracking these regulatory actions over time may require years.

For example, data compiled by EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), suggest that less than one-third of Title V permit renewals are issued within the federally mandated time frame of 18 months from the receipt of a complete application (from "*Timely Issuance of Permit Renewals and Significant Permit Modifications Under Title V: An Evaluation of the Permit Issuance Process*," completed by Industrial Economics, Incorporated for EPA in February 2007).

The other side of this issue is that once a new rule has been implemented, or a permit issued, facilities are required to abide by the time frames specified for compliance. Whether it is a requirement to submit an annual certification, data for an Information Request, or demonstrate compliance with a Stack Test, facilities are not often given much flexibility with deadlines.

In the realm of stack testing, deadlines include submitting Intent to Test or Test Protocol documentation within specified deadlines in advance of testing, completing the test event within the specified time range, and submitting the Test Report within the required time frame after the test event. Let Air Compliance Testing help you meet these deadlines. We will complete and submit your Intent to Test or Test Protocol documentation, complete your test on the scheduled date, and submit your report to you on time.

If you have upcoming testing, be sure to read your permit carefully and make note of the deadlines. Time flies – and deadlines always come up faster than you think.

Tyson Houchin | Operations Director



April marks the
40th anniversary
of the EPA and
of Earth Day.
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday>

EPA Finalizes 2008 National U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

EPA released the 15th annual U.S. greenhouse gas inventory report this month. It shows a drop in overall emissions of 2.9 percent from 2007 to 2008. The downward trend is attributed to a decrease in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with fuel and electricity consumption.

Total emissions of the six main greenhouse gases in 2008 were equivalent to 6,957 million metric tons of CO₂. The gases include CO₂, Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons and Sulfur Hexafluoride. Though overall emissions dropped in 2008, emissions are still 13.5 percent higher than they were in 1990.

"The Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2008" is the

latest annual report that the United States has submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The convention sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. EPA prepares the annual report with experts from multiple federal agencies and after gathering comments from a broad range of stakeholders across the country.

The inventory tracks annual greenhouse gas emissions at the national level and presents historical emissions from 1990 to 2008. The inventory also calculates carbon dioxide emissions that are removed from the atmosphere by "sinks," which occurs through the uptake of carbon by forests, vegetation and soils.

More information: http://www.epa.gov/climate_change/emissions/usinventoryreport.html

DOT, EPA Set Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels For Passenger Cars and Light Trucks



The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the EPA have jointly established new federal rules that set the first national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions standards. The rules will also significantly increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States. The rules could potentially save the average buyer of a 2016 model year car \$3,000 over the life of the vehicle, conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil, and reduce nearly a billion tons of GHG emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered.

DOT and EPA received more than 130,000 public comments on the September 2009 proposed rules, with overwhelming support for the strong national policy. Manufacturers will be able to build a single, light-duty national fleet that satisfies all federal requirements as well as the standards of California and other states. The collaboration of federal agencies also allows for clearer rules for all automakers, instead of three standards (DOT, EPA, and a state standard).

The final rules, issued by DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA, establish increasingly stringent fuel economy standards under NHTSA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy program and GHG standards under the Clean Air Act for 2012 through 2016 model-year vehicles. Starting with 2012 model year vehicles, the rules together require automakers to improve fleet-wide fuel economy and reduce fleet-wide GHG emissions by approximately five percent every year. NHTSA has established fuel economy standards that strengthen each year reaching an estimated 34.1 mpg for the combined industry-wide fleet for model year 2016.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/climate/regulations.htm>

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HERO Database

EPA opened public access to the Health and Environmental Research Online (HERO) database in March. HERO is a database of scientific studies and other references used to develop EPA's risk assessments aimed at understanding the health and environmental effects of pollutants and chemicals. It is developed and managed in EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). HERO contains the key studies EPA uses to develop environmental risk assessments for the public. EPA uses risk assessments to characterize the nature and magnitude of health risks to humans and the ecosystem from pollutants and chemicals in the environment.



You can browse through the bibliographic references in HERO by topic or assessment, or search for articles by author, title, etc. To try a HERO search, go to <http://www.epa.gov/hero/>

Upcoming Events

May 12-15, 2010

EPRI Continuous Emissions Monitoring Conference & Exhibit 2010, Cleveland, Ohio. Go to <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/info/summary.aspx?e=6b380e1d-e70c-4d38-9344-40a41176f08a> for more information.

Visit us in Booth #319!

June 22-25, 2010

The Air & Waste Management Association's 103rd Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE 2010) Calgary, AB, Canada. For registration information go to <http://www.awma.org/ACE2010/>.

July 20-21, 2010

20th Annual Air & Water Permitting Conference, Environmental Permitting in Ohio Conference, Columbus, Ohio. For registration information go to <http://www.mecseminars.com/Programs/PermittingConference.html>

EPA to Hold Public Hearings on Additions to GHG Reporting Requirements



EPA will hold two public hearings on proposals to add reporting requirements for specific source categories under the national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reporting system.

The hearing on April 19 will cover GHGs from fugitive and vented emissions from the petroleum and natural gas industry. The hearing will also cover reporting from facilities that inject Carbon Dioxide underground for the purposes of geologic sequestration or enhanced oil and gas recovery. The April 20 hearing will focus on the part of the proposal requiring emissions reporting from industries that emit fluorinated gases.

For information on locations and times, and to register as a speaker, go to: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html>

EPA Proposes to Revoke New Source Review (NSR) Final Rule

EPA is proposing to revoke the changes made to its NSR "aggregation policy" in January 2009. EPA is concerned that the changes would make the NSR permitting program less effective, allowing facilities to increase emissions that may impact air quality without a thorough review.

The new proposal responds to a petition to reconsider the 2009 rule. The 2009 rule directed facilities and permitting authorities to combine emissions from construction projects only when the changes are "substantially related," (having more in common than the timing of construction).

EPA is proposing to go back to its original policy, which required combining projects based on a broader range of factors. This would ensure that potential emissions increases that could harm air quality do

not avoid review and the installation of state-of-the-art pollution controls.

NSR is a pre-construction permitting program to ensure air quality is maintained when factories, industrial boilers and power plants are built or modified. The program ensures that state-of-the-art emission control technology is installed at new plants or existing plants that are undergoing a major modification.



For more information, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html>

EPA also is proposing to extend the effective date of the 2009 aggregation rule for an additional six months, to give the agency time to complete the reconsideration. EPA will take comment on the proposal rule for 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

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