



Environmental

Fact Sheet

Final Standards for Hazardous Waste Combustors - Phase I

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promulgating a final rule for hazardous waste combustors that provides: (1) an exclusion from RCRA Subtitle C jurisdiction of hazardous-waste-derived fuels that are comparable to particular fossil fuels; (2) an amendment to the RCRA permit modification rules for hazardous waste combustion units; (3) notification requirements for sources who intend to comply with the MACT final rule; and (4) waste minimization and pollution prevention criteria to be included in a request for a compliance extension.

Background

Under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Congress authorized EPA to regulate the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. On April 19, 1996, EPA proposed rules to control emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) from hazardous-waste-burning incinerators, cement kilns, and lightweight aggregate kilns (61FR 17358). Today's final rule, "Hazardous Waste Combustors; Final Rule—Part 1: RCRA Comparable Fuel Exclusion, Permit Modifications for Hazardous Waste Combustion Units; Notification of Intent to Comply; Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Criteria for Compliance Extensions", commonly referred to as the "Fast Track Rule," addresses four elements of the April 19, 1996, proposal to revise the standards for hazardous waste combustors.

EPA has drafted this rule to address both the RCRA and Clean Air Act (CAA) components, and has built in maximum flexibility so that the regulated community can make certain choices in implementing the rules in ways that are most reasonable. Further, finalizing this portion of the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) rule prior to the rest of the proposal will allow stakeholders to anticipate some of the requirements, thereby saving time and resources in the eventual implementation of the emission standards.

Action

Under this final rule, EPA is issuing four specific items in final form, as part of its proposal to revise the air emission standards for certain units that combust hazardous wastes: (1) an exclusion from RCRA Subtitle C jurisdiction of hazardous-waste-derived fuels that are comparable to particular fossil fuels; (2) an amendment to the RCRA permit modification rules for hazardous waste combustion units; (3) notification requirements for sources that intend to comply with the final rule; and (4) waste minimization and pollution prevention criteria to be included in a request