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Update: EPA's NESHAP Standards for Reciprocating IC Engines

On 5 March 2009, EPA [published](#) a proposed rulemaking regarding National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS – or HAPS) that would affect owners and operators of existing stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE). Please see August 2009 Emissions Monitor.



EPA March proposal established NESHAP for the following:

- Existing stationary RICE with a site rating of less than or equal to 500 HP located at major sources of HAP,
- Existing nonemergency compression ignition (CI) engines with a site rating greater than 500 HP located at major sources of HAP, and
- Existing stationary RICE of any power rating located at area sources of HAP.

EPA's final rule (40 CFR Parts 60, 63, 85, 90, 1048, 1065 and 1068) has now been published in the Federal Register (Docket: EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0171) and comments are no longer being accepted. The [final standards](#) are in two parts, with two sets of regulations under one notice of final rulemaking because the industries being addressed are practically equal.

The first part, known as New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) will limit emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOC) from new stationary spark ignition RICE.

The second part, known as technology-based air toxic standards, limits air toxic emissions from new and reconstructed stationary RICE that are either located at areas sources, have a site rating of less than or equal to 500 hp and are located at major sources of air toxics emissions.

In EPA's rulemaking, Part 60 is amended to add a [subpart JJJ](#) which provides performance standards of stationary spark ignited RICE that manufacturers, owners and operators must follow. The tables provided on pages 3571 through 3575 of Federal Register, Volume 13, dated Friday 18 January 2008 provide the emission standards for various engine types and fuel sources.

[Subpart ZZZZ](#) establishes national emission and operating limits for HAPs emitted from stationary RICE located at major and area sources of HAP emissions. Pages 3604-3612 provides specific details that owner and operators must meet based on engine sizes and fuel sources.

Affected industries are still working with the EPA on subparts JJJ and ZZZZ. Next month [Emissions Monitor](#) will comment on subpart JJJ. The following month [Emissions Monitor](#) will comment on subpart ZZZZ.

EPA Proposal Requires Use of Best Technologies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases from Large Facilities

On 30 September 2009, one week after it [announced](#) it would require the nation's largest green house gas (GHG) emitters to begin tracking emissions data beginning 1 January 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a [new rule](#) stating that facilities emitting more than 25,000 tons of GHGs a year must obtain construction and operating permits covering these emissions. These permits must demonstrate the use of best available control technologies (BACT) and energy efficiency measures to minimize GHG emissions when facilities are constructed or significantly modified.



The EPA is targeting facilities such as power plants, refineries, and factories. EPA says small businesses such as farms and restaurants, and many other types of small facilities, would not be included in these requirements.

In its [fact sheet](#) EPA says its rule proposes new thresholds for GHG emissions that define when Clean Air Act (CAA) permits under the New Source Review (NSR) and title V operating permits programs would be required for new or existing industrial facilities.

This proposal addresses the emissions of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) that may be covered by an EPA rule controlling or limiting their emissions:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Methane (CH₄)
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)

EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

EPA Tells Congress “Clean Diesel” Program is Working

On 14 October 2009 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a [report](#) to Congress detailing the benefits of the agency's Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA). Funded at \$50 million last year, EPA's program provided for the purchase or retrofitting of 14,000 diesel-powered vehicles and pieces of equipment, preventing respiratory illnesses and saving money in communities nationwide. EPA states the resulting benefits from the program include:



- Reducing 46,000 tons of nitrogen oxide, a key contributor to elevated smog levels, and 2,200 tons of particulate matter over the lifetime of diesel vehicles
- Conserving 3.2 million gallons of fuel annually under the SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program, which saves operators \$8 million annually
- Generating public health benefits between \$500 million to \$1.4 billion

EPA is currently implementing stringent regulatory standards for new diesel engines. But, because diesel engines remain in use for decades, it is also important to address the existing fleet. Under DERA , which comprises both national grant competitions and direct state allocations, EPA provides support for retrofits, repairs, replacements, idle reduction, cleaner fuels, innovative financing for clean technologies under the SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program, and other strategies.

BLM Reports on Utah Oil & Gas Leases – Blocks Development on 60 of 77 Drill Sites

The U.S. Department of the Interior has frozen oil and gas development on 60 of 77 contested drilling sites in Utah, saying the process of leasing the land was rushed and badly flawed, according to a [New York Times report](#).

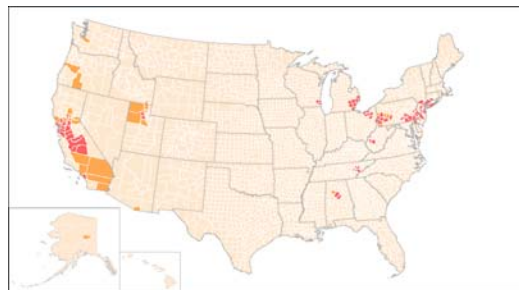


The 77 government-owned parcels, covering some 100,000 acres in eastern and southern Utah, were leased in the last weeks of the Bush administration. But the leases were immediately challenged by conservation groups, and in January a federal judge blocked drilling on the ground that the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had failed to follow its own procedures for reviewing the appropriateness of lands designated for oil and gas extraction.

The Interior Department’s 8 October [announcement](#) stated [BLM’s final report](#) now recommends leasing 17 of the parcels, deferring 52 parcels, and withdrawing 8 parcels. Deferral means that the parcels may not be leased until necessary corrections are made to the associated leasing documents, or until conditions are such that leasing would assist in the orderly development of the oil and gas resource. Deferral could also mean removal of the parcels from leasing. The recommendation to remove 8 parcels from leasing was the direct result of field reviews that found that leasing was inappropriate due to critical resource values and /or the apparent lack of net benefit to be gained from leasing.

EPA Lists 31 U.S. Areas Not Meeting 24-Hour Fine Particle Standard

On 10 October 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated [31 areas](#) as not meeting the agency’s daily standards for fine particle air pollution (PM 2.5), or particulate matter. These areas, made up of 120 full or partial counties in 18 states, were designated as “nonattainment” because their 2006 to 2008 air quality monitoring data showed that they did not meet the agency’s health-based standards. EPA revised the 24-hour fine particle standards to 35 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2006.



The areas designated as non-attainment will need to develop and implement plans to reduce pollution to meet the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. Nonattainment areas include counties with monitors showing violations of the standards and the nearby areas that also contribute to that violation. Affected states and tribes will be required to take steps to reduce the pollution that forms fine particles. The majority of U.S. counties and tribal lands are meeting EPA’s PM 2.5 standards.

More information on these designations can be found on [EPA's Web site](#) as well as a [U.S. map](#) and a [table](#) showing areas not meeting EPA's PM 2.5 standards.