

Issue 1 - October 2008



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EPA Announces Revision of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Lead

Issue Overview

On October 16, 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the criteria air pollutant lead. This announcement will be formalized by the EPA in the Federal Register in the near future. The text of the final rule can currently be found at:

http://www.epa.gov/air/lead/pdfs/20081015_pb_naaqs_final.pdf

The NAAQS for lead was reduced by a factor of 10 from 1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The revised standard will be evaluated on a rolling 3-month period with a maximum (not to be exceeded) form, evaluated over a 3-year period. The secondary standard was set to be the same as the primary standard.

The text of the final rule includes provisions which require source oriented monitoring at each site that emits more than 1.0 tons of lead per year. The rule also includes waivers for this requirement under certain conditions, and specifications for other monitoring requirements.

EPA indicates that designation of areas under the revised lead NAAQS will be staggered as additional ambient monitoring is implemented. Any areas designated for the revised lead NAAQS will be presumptively defined based on county boundaries.

Potential Impacts

Attainment of the revised lead NAAQS will be evaluated based on existing and future ambient air quality monitoring. Additional requirements may result as part of the regulatory permitting processes for major and minor sources. This may include dispersion modeling analyses and enhanced permit or reporting conditions.

Implementation of the revised NAAQS for lead may result in the need for refined emission estimates, stack testing, modeled compliance demonstrations, or in some cases, the addition or enhancement of emission control equipment. Traditional

particulate matter control options may be sufficient.

Where to Find Help

Stanley Consultants is a full service firm that can provide environmental and engineering solutions that may be necessary to meet the requirements of the revised NAAQS for lead including:

- Evaluation of emission estimates and opportunities for refinement
- Dispersion modeling analysis of lead concentrations
- Coordination of stack testing efforts
- Review of control equipment performance and potential enhancements
- Cost estimates and engineering design of pollution control equipment
- Identification of multi-pollutant control opportunities
- Review and recommendations of permitting strategies and approaches

If you would like more information about the Environmental Bulletin, contact Chad Daniel, Senior Environmental Scientist at DanielChad@stanleygroup.com or 515-447-4411

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