

Update for 02/18/09 SETPMTM Meeting

The technical work continues for the next SIP revision which must be submitted to the EPA by April 15, 2010. Staff is evaluating the possible measures provided in the draft initial concept list and those suggested by stakeholders.

A Control Techniques Guidelines (aka, CTG Stakeholder Group) meeting was held December 9, 2008 to discuss the content of documents related to the EPA's Consumer and Commercial Products Guidelines and to seek stakeholder input. This project is now on the same timeline as the HGB SIP revision, which will be proposed in fall 2009 and submitted to EPA in April 2010. For additional information you may contact Lindley Anderson of the Air Quality Planning Section at (512) 239-0003 or visit the CTG Stakeholder Group Web page. http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/ctg/control_techniques_stakeholder.html.

The Cost Analysis of HRVOC Controls on Polymer Plants and Flares (ENVIRON) - final report has been posted on the SIP Hot Topics Webpage. <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/Hottop.html>

Possible upcoming studies include a follow-up HRVOC cost analysis study focusing on non-polymer facilities and an evaluation of the portable engine registration programs in other states.

An agency-wide Flare Task Force was created to evaluate issues related to flares that have been raised both within the agency and by external parties over the past several years. The task force evaluation is not related to the development of any particular control strategy. The goal of the task force is to compile information and provide options for agency management consideration. Future stakeholder involvement is anticipated but the group is only in the preliminary evaluation process.

Other Notes

Reinstatement of CAIR

On December 23, 2008, the United States Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit (Court) issued a revised opinion to remand without vacating CAIR. Therefore, CAIR will remain in effect while the EPA conducts rulemaking to modify CAIR to comply with the Courts opinion, issued on July 11, 2008. Forms are now available for requesting an allocation of CAIR NO_x allowances from the new unit set-aside trading budget and the Compliance Supplement Pool.

2008 Ozone Standard

On December 10, 2008, the TCEQ commission approved a recommendation concerning designations under the EPA's 2008 eight-hour ozone standard. The state's recommendation is due to EPA by March 12, 2009. The recommendation has been sent to the governor for his consideration. The Web address where you may obtain up-to-date information is: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/aqps/eighthour.html>.

2008 Lead Standard

On October 15, 2008, the EPA substantially strengthened the NAAQS for lead. The revised standard is 10 times tighter than the previous. States are required to make recommendations for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable by October 2009. Staff is currently in the process of developing a draft recommendation for the executive director's review. Staff anticipates holding a public informational meeting in the spring of 2009.