

FACT SHEET

NOTICE SOLICITING COMMENT ON ALTERNATIVE WORK PRACTICE FOR THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR ASBESTOS

ACTION

- On April 18, 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice soliciting comment on an alternative work practice request under the Clean Air Act, to use new technology and work practices developed for removal and replacement of asbestos cement (A/C) pipe.
- EPA is soliciting comment on all aspects of this request for an alternative work practice that, in order to be approved, should be at least environmentally equivalent to the existing work practices in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Asbestos (Asbestos NESHAP).
- Following a process laid out in the Clean Air Act and the Asbestos NESHAP, EPA received a request to approve an alternative work practice called “close tolerance pipe slurrification” (CTPS) to replace A/C pipes.
- After evaluating the request, EPA is proposing that CTPS is at least equivalent to the Asbestos NESHAP process for A/C pipe removal.
- If approved, this alternative work practice could be used to comply with the Asbestos NESHAP.
- Conventional work practices to replace A/C pipe include open-cut trench and replace and abandoning A/C pipe in place.
- The Asbestos NESHAP is an organized collection of work practices designed to prevent the release of asbestos, and are prescribed for the handling and processing of asbestos-containing materials. The NESHAP for this source category was originally promulgated in 1973, and was last amended in 1990.
- Asbestos is a known human carcinogen and the primary route of exposure is through inhalation of asbestos fibers. More information on the health effects of asbestos may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/asbestos/learn-about-asbestos#effects>.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposed alternative work practice for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments on the notice, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427, can be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Online:** www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427.
- **Email:** Comments may be sent to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427 in the subject line of the message.
- **Fax:** Fax your comments to (202) 566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427.
- **Mail:** Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- **Hand/Courier Delivery:** EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427. Such deliveries are accepted only during the normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays), and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the proposed action from the EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/asbestos-national-emission-standards-hazardous-air-pollutants>.
- Today's notice and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room. The Docket ID number for this proposed action is EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0427.
 - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about the proposed action, contact Susan Fairchild of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, Minerals and Manufacturing Group at (919)-541-5167 or by email at fairchild.susan@epa.gov.