

of whether the individual is currently working as a miner." The PIB was distributed to the entire mining community including every coal, metal, and nonmetal mine operator in the United States, as well as to key officials of trade and labor associations in the mining community. The text of the PIB is included as Appendix I of this notice. A list of the individuals to whom the PIB was distributed can be obtained from the Agency.

The 1987 PIB was never formally withdrawn, but neither was it incorporated into MSHA's Program Policy Manual, which was first issued in 1988. This may have caused confusion among some mine operators and even certain MSHA personnel about the responsibility to report cases of occupational illness in retired or otherwise inactive miners. This PPL will eliminate any ambiguity about the reporting requirements under part 50.

Beginning on the effective date of the PPL, MSHA will observe a grace period of 90 days to allow for unreported cases of occupational illness in retired or inactive miners from the previous 5 years to be submitted to MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR part 50 without penalty. This grace period will be announced at the time the PPL is issued.

MSHA is issuing this PPL to restate its occupational illness reporting requirements. The purpose of the PPL is to eliminate possible confusion about the reporting requirements as they apply to occupational illnesses among miners, including retired or inactive miners. MSHA requests written comments regarding the PPL from interested persons.

Draft Program Policy Letter

Subject: Reporting Occupational Illness

Scope: This Program Policy Letter (PPL) applies to mine operators, including independent contractors, and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel.

Purpose: This PPL clarifies and restates MSHA's requirements for reporting occupational illnesses, including cases involving retired or inactive miners, under 30 CFR Part 50.

Policy: Under 30 CFR 50.20(a), mine operators and independent contractors are required to submit a report to MSHA when they are notified of a diagnosis or otherwise learn that a miner has an illness which may have resulted from work in a mine, or for which an award of compensation has been made. These reporting requirements apply regardless of the employment status of the miner (i.e., active, retired, otherwise off-work, or deceased) at the time of the diagnosis

or award. Within 10 working days of becoming aware of such a compensation award or diagnosis, the operator is required to report the occurrence by completing and mailing a Form 7000-1 to MSHA. An intent to contest the award or diagnosis does not relieve the mine operator of the responsibility to file the required report within 10 working days. (The limited exception is that an operator need not report to MSHA within 10 working days any chest x-ray result for which the operator is actively seeking a more definitive second opinion in a timely manner and has supporting documentation, as stated in Program Policy Manual Vol. III, 50.2.)

Effective Date: After considering comments from the public, MSHA anticipates that this PPL will take effect on March 12, 1998 and will be incorporated into MSHA's Program Policy Manual.

Authority: Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

J. Davitt McAteer,

Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

Appendix I

[Note: This is the text of the Program Information Bulletin that was widely distributed to the mining community in 1987. No changes have been made to the text. It is reprinted here solely for the convenience of miners, mine operators, and independent contractors.]

August 31, 1987

MSHA Program Information Bulletin No. 87-4C and 87-2M

Subject: Reporting Occupational Illnesses to MSHA

The purpose of this Bulletin is to clarify operator compliance responsibilities for reporting occupational illnesses under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50 requires mine operators to report occupational illnesses of miners. A miner is defined as "any individual working in a mine," and occupational illness is defined as "an illness or disease which may have resulted from work at a mine or for which an award of compensation is made." Illnesses that are reportable include noise-induced hearing loss, silicosis, coal workers' pneumoconiosis (black lung), poisoning by toxic materials, and cancer. Part 50 further requires that the operator mail a completed Form 7000-1 to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) within 10 working days after a miner is diagnosed as having an occupational illness.

Industry reporting activity for occupational illnesses suggests there is operator uncertainty about the relationship between Part 50 reporting obligations and the information provided to the operator through Federal and State occupational illness compensation programs.

In order to ensure that data reported by mine operators reflects the incidence of

occupational illnesses associated with the mining industry, the reporting requirements of Part 50 apply when compensation programs provide an operator notice that an individual has been awarded compensation for or is diagnosed as having an occupational illness resulting from employment in a mine, regardless of whether the individual is currently working as a miner. Thus, within 10 days of becoming aware of any such compensation award or diagnosis, the operator must report the occurrence by completing and mailing a Form 7000-1 to MSHA.

Accordingly, effective 30 days after the issuance date of this Bulletin, MSHA will require that operators report occupational illnesses consistent with the Part 50 regulations and the clarification provided by this bulletin. MSHA's district and subdistrict offices will be pleased to provide additional guidance or assistance regarding the reporting of occupational illnesses and the proper completion of the Form 7000-1.

Roy. L. Bernard,

Administrator, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health.

Jerry L. Spicer,

Administrator, Coal Mine Safety and Health.

Inquiries

William H. Sutherland, Chief, Division of Health, Coal Mine Safety and Health, (703) 235-1358

Marvin W. Nichols, Jr., Chief, Division of Health, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health, (703) 235-8307

Distribution

All Mine Operators, Coal and Metal and Nonmetal Coal District Managers, Mine Safety and Health Metal and Nonmetal District Managers, Mine Safety and Health Principal Officials, Headquarters Superintendent, National Academy

[FR Doc. 97-29635 Filed 11-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 63

[AD-FRL-5919-7]

RIN 2060-AE-81

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Polyether Polyols Production

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; Reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The EPA is announcing a 30-day reopening of the public comment period for the proposed "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Polyether Polyols Production." As initially published in the **Federal Register** on September 4,

1997 (62 FR 46804), written comments on the proposed rule were to be submitted to the EPA on or before November 3, 1997 (a 60-day public comment period). The public comment period is being reopened for 30 days and will now end on December 3, 1997.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (in duplicate, if possible) to the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. A-96-38, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, DC 20460. The EPA requests that a separate copy also be sent to the contact person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through electronic mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Svendsgaard; Organic Chemicals Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, telephone number (919) 541-2380.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Electronic Filing. Electronic comments can be sent directly to the EPA at: a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments and data must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 or 6.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number A-96-38. Electronic comments may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

Discussion

On September 4, 1997, at 62 FR 46804, the EPA published the proposed National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Polyether Polyols Production and provided a 60-day public comment period. Requests have been received to extend the public comment period beyond the 60 days originally provided. These requests have been made by businesses that will be affected by the rule. In consideration of these requests, the EPA is reopening the comment period by 30 days (until December 3, 1997), in order to give all interested persons the opportunity to comment fully.

Dated: November 3, 1997.

Richard D. Wilson,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 97-29735 Filed 11-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 79

[FRL-5919-5]

Proposed Alternative Tier 2 Requirements for Baseline Gasoline and Oxygenated Gasoline Categories of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether, Ethyl Alcohol, and Other Oxygenates

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to announce that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending the comment periods, which published on September 9, 1997 (62 FR 47400), on the proposed Alternative Tier 2 testing requirements under the fuel and fuel additive (F/FAs) registration testing requirements of 40 CFR part 79, subpart F an additional 60 days.

EPA has extended the comment periods for the following reasons. First, the API 211(b) Research Group has requested an extension because there are many inherent complexities in the proposed testing, especially in regard to the required exposure work. Second, the public has shown an interest in the testing being required under the proposed Alternative Tier 2 notification. **DATES:** Comments on these proposed Alternative Tier 2 provisions must be received from the public by January 7, 1998. Comments on the proposed Alternative Tier 2 provisions now must be received from the API 211(b) Research Group within 120 days of their initial receipt of the proposed testing regimen.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this proposed action should be addressed to Public Docket No. A-96-16, Waterside Mall (Room M-1500), Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket Section, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Materials relevant to this rulemaking have been placed in Docket A-96-16. Documents may be inspected between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying docket material.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Brophy, Environmental Scientist, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, (202) 233-9068.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulated Entities

Entities potentially regulated by this action are those that manufacture gasoline with or without the fuel additives MTBE, ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE), ethyl alcohol (EtOH), tertiary amyl methyl ether (TAME), diisopropyl ether (DIPE), and tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) and manufacturers of these oxygenates and other gasoline additives. Regulated categories and entities include:

Category	Examples of regulated entities
Industry	Oil refiners, gasoline importers, oxygenate blenders, oxygenate and fuel additive manufacturers.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but, rather illustrates the types of entities that EPA is currently aware of that are likely to be regulated by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this table could also be regulated. To determine whether an entity not described by the examples listed in the table is subject to these requirements, refer to the applicability criteria in part 79 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. If questions remain regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

This document serves as a notice to all manufacturers of the subject F/FAs, that are not exempted from these requirements section.

EPA has extended the comment periods for the following reasons. First, the API 211(b) Research Group has requested an extension because there are many inherent complexities in the proposed testing, especially in regard to the required exposure work. Second, the public has shown an interest in the testing being required under the proposed Alternative Tier 2 notification.

Therefore, EPA has decided to extend the comment periods for both the the API 211(b) Research Group and for the public in order to assure that all commenters are able to fully review and comment on the proposed testing regimen.

The Agency notified the API 211(b) Research Group, by certified letter of the 60-day extension and a copy of this extension letter as well as the