

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WIDESPREAD USE OF ONBOARD REFUELING VAPOR RECOVERY

ACTION

- On July 8, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed criteria for determining that there is widespread use of onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) for capturing gasoline vapor emissions when gasoline-powered vehicles are refueled.
- The Clean Air Act allows EPA to waive certain requirements of the Stage II vapor recovery program which is a vapor recovery system that prevents the discharge to the atmosphere of gasoline vapors displaced during the dispensing of gasoline into a motor vehicle fuel tank at service stations when the EPA Administrator finds that ORVR systems are in widespread use in the vehicle fleet. This action proposes to establish June 30, 2013, as the date by which the Administrator determines that ORVR is in widespread use. An estimated 72 percent of vehicles on the road are expected to have ORVR by that date,
- This action also proposes that certain requirements for Stage II gasoline vapor recovery at service stations are waived as of June 30, 2013. This proposed waiver will allow many areas now requiring Stage II equipment at service stations to remove, or decommission, their Stage II systems.
- EPA regards Stage II vapor recovery system decommissioning to involve equipment replacement and elimination of certain expenses associated with operating Stage II systems. EPA has estimated the national cost savings for facilities decommissioning Stage II vapor recovery systems based on this proposed rule to be over \$88 million annually.
- This proposed rulemaking accomplishes the objectives of the Obama administration's initiative to review outdated rules and update them to ensure that they are still achieving the environmental benefits that they were intended to achieve.

BACKGROUND

- Both Stage II vapor recovery and onboard refueling vapor recovery are systems for capturing gasoline emissions that would otherwise be emitted into the air when automobiles and other vehicles are refueled at service stations. Gasoline-rich vapors in an empty automobile fuel tank are forced out when liquid gasoline is pumped into the tank. Stage II vapor recovery systems capture these vapors at the gasoline pump nozzle and carry them back into the underground storage tank at the service station. Onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) systems are carbon canisters installed in automobiles to capture gasoline vapors evacuated from the gasoline tank before they reach the pump nozzle.
- The Clean Air Act required many ozone nonattainment areas to adopt Stage I vapor recovery

systems, which apply to the gasoline distribution industry, and Stage II systems, which apply to service stations, in the early 1990's. The Clean Air Act also required automobile makers to add ORVR systems to automobiles and other vehicles in a phased approach starting in 1998. Since 2006, all new automobiles and light and medium duty cars, vans and trucks are equipped with ORVR.

- This final rule does not change requirements for Stage I vapor recovery.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments, identified by Docket ID No EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-1076, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
 - E-mail: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
 - Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-1741.
 - Mail: Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.
 - Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this proposed rule from EPA's Web site, go to Recent Actions at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, 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.
 - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-1076
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. H. Lynn Dail of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-2363 or by e-mail at dail.lynn@epa.gov.