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Ohio EPA Takes Comments on Rule Changes That Accommodate Federal Greenhouse Gas Rules

New sources of air pollution would be required to control greenhouse gas emissions under draft rule changes being introduced by Ohio EPA. The draft rules mirror federal requirements to control greenhouse gas emissions under U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule. Ohio EPA is accepting comments on the draft through August 13, 2010.

The rule amendments would allow for a step-by-step implementation process in concert with federal actions:

- step 1 – From January 2, 2011 through June 30, 2011, facilities with new major sources that fall under federal requirements would be required to address greenhouse gas emissions if the new source would increase output of carbon dioxide by 75,000 tons per year based on carbon conversion formulas; and
- step 2 – Beginning July 1, 2011, newly constructed facilities would be subject to greenhouse gas requirements based on tons of carbon dioxide emitted per year. Existing sources would be subject to permit modifications if the source already emits 100,000 tons per year or more.

In addition to adding limits, draft definitions are included such as what would be considered an emissions increase, carbon equivalents and how equivalents are calculated under the draft rules. Also, a section has been added that would regulate the emissions of light duty vehicles.

A key component to the draft rule changes would be to add the phrase "subject to regulation," which allows for tailoring the regulations to specific pollutants or pollutant sources. As U.S. EPA updates specific greenhouse gas limits, sources would become subject to changes without additional rule development.

Copies of the draft rule changes are available at www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/regs/regs.aspx or can be requested by calling (614) 644-3696. Written comments can be mailed to the attention of Paul Braun, Division of Air Pollution Control, Ohio EPA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Please include "PSD and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule; Final Rule" in the subject line.

Ohio EPA will consider all comments received by August 13, 2010, before formally proposing rule changes. When the rules are formally proposed, Ohio EPA will hold a public hearing and offer another public comment period before any rule changes are adopted.