

LACN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS E-UPDATE

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“Boiler MACT” hearings from EPA

The federal EPA has published new proposed “Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology” rules, which includes emission limits for industrial, commercial and institutional boilers using fossil fuels and biomass. We know that a number of LACN members use boilers of various sizes for power generation and heating. These new rules, if enacted, may affect your boiler use with new rules that subject the operator to extremely low emission levels.

While boiler emissions have been part of EPA rules for many years, this latest round of rules adds new levels of emission limits, often approaching levels that can be barely detected, and would require clearly unattainable limits and require control devices that will conflict with existing control requirements. While we all support efforts to address health threats from air emissions, this is a proposed rule that needs a health threshold standard to determine where there is a legitimate need, and EPA should use a realistic approach to develop cost-effective and achievable MACT emission limits. A June 22 hearing is set for Los Angeles, one of three hearings set by the EPA across the country.

If you have boilers in your operations that may be affected under the proposed rules, you may find additional information at the EPA website at epa.gov. Type in “Boiler MACT” for a range of information.

LACN also has additional information and talking points that can be e-mailed to you. Please let me know by return e-mail.