

Clairton Coke Works Receives Permit for New Coke Ovens

The Allegheny County Health Department issued a permit to U.S. Steel for the installation of a second new coke oven battery (D battery) at its Clairton Coke Works. This compliments a permit that was issued last year for the first new coke battery (C battery). The Health Department reports that although the installation of the first new coke oven battery has been suspended due to the economic downturn, they continued with the permitting process for the second new battery so U.S. Steel could proceed with its plans to build two new batteries at the Clairton Coke Works once the economy rebounds. These two new batteries will replace the existing capacity of the aging No. 1-3 and No. 7-9 battery groups that are to be permanently shut down in accordance with a consent order and agreement whether or not the company ultimately builds the new batteries.

The coke plant, which is the nation's largest, is located in an area classified as "non-attainment" because it does not meet national ambient air quality standards for fine particulates. "The new batteries, combined with extensive rebuilding of the plant's six remaining batteries, will dramatically improve air quality and help bring the Liberty/Clairton area into attainment," said County Health Director Dr. Bruce W. Dixon.

API Releases the Compendium of Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimation Methodologies for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

The American Petroleum Institute (API) recently released the "Compendium of Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimation Methodologies for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry" (referred to as the "API Compendium"). This represents the third release of the API Compendium since the initial release in June 2001 as a "Pilot Test" version. The updated version is available on the API website (www.api.org/ehs/climate/new/index.cfm) and is designed to allow for consistent estimation of carbon dioxide, methane and N₂O emissions from facilities and process units associated with the oil and natural gas industry.

This new version of the Compendium is based on extensive comments and observations received from a broad range of industry experts during the use of earlier versions of the document, and represents the latest information available. API notes however that estimating greenhouse gas emissions is an evolving process, and as such, the Compendium is intended to also evolve.