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NSPS Amendments for Coal Preparation and Processing Plants

EPA published final amendments on October 8, 2008 (74 FR 51950) to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for coal preparation and processing plants, codified in 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Y. The final rule is effective on October 8, 2009. A brief summary of the amendments are outlined below.

Emission Limits/Work Practice Standards

- The final amendments include a revision to the definition of thermal dryers for units constructed, reconstructed, or modified after May 27, 2009, to include both direct and indirect dryers drying all coal types and coal refuse. The rule regulates emissions of SO2, NOx, and CO from thermal dryers constructed, reconstructed, or modified after May 27, 2009 that receives thermal input from the combustion of coal, coal refuse, or residual oil. The SO2 emission limit is 0.20 lbs/MMBtu; or 90% reduction and limit SO2 emissions to no more than 1.2 lb/MMBtu. The NOx-CO emission limit for reconstructed and modified thermal dryers is 1.0 lb/MMBtu. The NOx-CO emission limit for new thermal dryers is 0.65 lb/MMBtu.
- PM and opacity are regulated from all thermal dryers constructed, reconstructed, or modified after April 28, 2008. For new and reconstructed thermal dryers, the PM emission limit is 0.01 gr/dscf and the opacity limit is <10%. For modified thermal dryers, the PM limit is 0.031 gr/dscf and the opacity limit is <20%.
- PM and opacity are regulated from pneumatic coal-cleaning equipment constructed, reconstructed, or modified after April 28, 2008, and limited to 0.010 gr/dscf and ≤ 5% opacity, respectively.
- PM and opacity are regulated from coal-handling equipment mechanically vented to the atmosphere that were constructed, reconstructed, or modified after April 28, 2008, and limited to 0.010 gr/dscf and <10% opacity, respectively. Coal-handling equipment includes coal processing and conveying equipment (including breakers and crushers), coal storage systems, and transfer and loading systems.
- For open storage piles a fugitive coal dust emission control plan is required, which includes the equipment use din the loading, unloading, and conveying operations of the affected facility, constructed, reconstructed, or modified after May 27, 2009. The plan must be submitted to the regulatory authority prior to the startup date of the affected facility.

Performance Testing

All affected facilities subject to emission limits are required to conduct initial emissions testing to show compliance with the limits. Subsequent testing is variable and depends the results of the previous performance tests (i.e., if emissions from performance tests are ≤ 50% of the emission limit, testing must be conducted within 24 calendar months of the previous performance test, as opposed to 12 months). For an affected facility, excluding thermal dryers, with a design controlled potential PM emission rate, considering controls, of 1.1 tons/yr or less, subsequent

testing is not required as long as 1) PM emissions are ≤ the emission limit as demonstrated through the initial test; 2) the manufacturer's recommended maintenance procedures for the control device are followed; and 3) all 6-minute average opacity readings from the most recent Method 9 performance test are ≤ half the applicable opacity limit.

Monitoring Requirements

For affected facilities constructed, reconstructed, or modified after April 28, 2008, with baghouses that have a design controlled potential emission rate of 28 tons or more, the use of a bag leak detection system is required.

For affected facilities with venture scrubbers, continuous measurement of the pressure loss and liquid flow rate to the scrubber is required. IF the scrubber is used to control SO2 emissions, pH of the scrubbing liquor must also be continuously measured.

For affected facilities using packed bed scrubbers with the addition of limit, the liquid flow rate to the scrubber and the scrubber liquor pH must be continuously measured.