

# Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act

April 12, 2018

# Overview

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# Background

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- ▶ In 1995, EPA issued a memorandum on the “Potential to Emit for MACT Standards – Guidance on Timing Issues” (1995 Seitz Memorandum)
  - ▶ Per the 1995 memo any facility subject to major source standards would always remain subject to those standards unless the source reduced its potential to emit (PTE) below major source thresholds before the first substantive compliance date of a MACT standard
  - ▶ This position was commonly known as the “once in, always in” (OIAI) policy
- ▶ In 2003 and 2007, EPA proposed regulatory amendments intended to replace the OIAI policy as stated in 1995 Seitz memorandum
- ▶ In 2003, EPA proposed amendments that focused on HAP emissions reductions resulting from pollution prevention (P2) activities
  - ▶ Apart from certain provisions associated with EPA’s National Environmental Performance Track Program, that proposal was never finalized
- ▶ In 2007, EPA again issued a proposed rule to replace OIAI policy
  - ▶ Under that proposal, a major source could take limits on its PTE and obtain area source status at any time. EPA did not take final action on this proposal.

# 2018 Reclassification Memorandum

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- ▶ On January 25, 2018, EPA issued a new guidance memorandum: Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the CAA (2018 Reclassification Memorandum)
- ▶ EPA relies on plain language definitions of “major source” in CAA section 112 (a)(1) and of “area source” in CAA section 112 (a)(2) to conclude
  - ▶ *A major source becomes an area source at such time that the source takes a federally enforceable limit on its potential to emit (PTE) HAP below the major source thresholds (10 tpy of a single hazardous air pollutant or 25 tpy of any combination of HAP)*
- ▶ Memo is responsive to comments received in response to EO 13777 Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda and EO 13783 Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth
  - ▶ Supersedes May 1995 Seitz memorandum and withdraws “Once In, Always In” policy

# What Changed? What Has Not Changed?

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- ▶ The 1995 Seitz Memorandum determined that any facility subject to major source standards would always remain subject to those standards unless the source reduced its PTE below major source thresholds before the first substantive compliance date of a MACT standard
- ▶ The 2018 Reclassification Memorandum removes the time limit on when a facility may be reclassified as an area source
- ▶ Otherwise, the 2018 Reclassification Memorandum did not change the process or requirements for what a major source must do to reduce its PTE and be reclassified as an area source

# Next Steps

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- ▶ On Feb 8, 2018, EPA published a Federal Register notice notifying the public that it has issued the 2018 Reclassification Memorandum and is also withdrawing the Seitz Memorandum
- ▶ As noted in the reclassification memo, EPA's press release and the Feb 8, 2018 Federal Register notice, "the EPA anticipates that it will soon publish a *Federal Register* notice to take comment on adding regulatory text that will reflect EPA's plain language reading of the statute as discussed in this memorandum"
- ▶ This action will also address implementation considerations

# Contact Information

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- ▶ Questions concerning specific issues in Connecticut should be directed to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) or U.S. EPA Region I
- ▶ EPA Regional Office staff will coordinate directly with EPA Headquarters staff if assistance is needed to respond to questions related to implementation of the memorandum
- ▶ EPA Region I contact:  
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