

memorandum

DATE: June 11, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance: Boulos: 6-1306

SUBJECT: Proposed Clean Air Act Rule Related to National Chromium Emission Standards from Hard and Decorative Chromium Electroplating and Chromium Anodizing Tanks, for Review and Comment

TO: Distribution

The purpose of this memorandum is to solicit comments from Department of Energy (DOE) program offices and field organizations on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) notice of proposed rulemaking, "National Emission Standards for Chromium Emissions from Hard and Decorative Chromium Electroplating and Chromium Anodizing Tanks." The proposed rule (67 FR 38810; June 5, 2002) is available at the Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance (EH-41) Home Page at: <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/rules/67/67fr38810.pdf>.

In these amendments, the EPA proposes: (i) new requirements that allow the use of fume suppressants for controlling chromium emissions from hard chromium electroplating tanks; (ii) an alternative standard to the existing concentration emission limit for hard chromium electroplating tanks equipped with enclosing hoods; (iii) changes to the definition of chromium electroplating and anodizing tank to include all ancillary equipment necessary to accomplish electroplating or anodizing; and (iv) amendments to the monitoring requirements for composite mesh pads by expanding the acceptable pressure drop range and proposing revisions to several definitions to improve clarity and consistency.

In 1994, DOE commented on the proposed chromium emissions standards rule (58 FR 65768; December 16, 1993). These comments were based primarily on input from Oak Ridge Operations Office and the Kansas City Area Office. The current national standards for chromium emissions from hard and decorative chromium electroplating and chromium anodizing tanks were promulgated on January 25, 1995 (60 FR 4963). In that rule, EPA established different standards for small and large facilities which operate hard chromium electroplating tanks. In addition, the rule included operation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements for the control devices. The standard for new and existing decorative chromium electroplating tanks and new and existing chromium anodizing tanks is 0.01 mg/dscm. Operators of decorative chromium electroplating and chromium anodizing tanks using a fume suppressant for controlling emissions can elect to maintain the surface tension of the plating solution at 45 dynes per centimeter (dynes/cm) or less as an alternative standard.

Please review the notice and submit any comments by July 22, 2002, to Mr. Emile Boulos of my staff at: emile.boulos@eh.doe.gov. In developing comments, please indicate the specific page and section of the preamble of the Federal Register to which each comment pertains. Questions or concerns regarding this memorandum should be directed to Mr. Boulos.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy Lawrence". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Andy Lawrence
Director
Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance