



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

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Category: NESHAP
EPA Office: SSCD
Date: 03/05/1993
Title: Aristech Chemical Corporation-Subpart FF
Recipient: Wardzinski, Karen
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Subparts: Part 61, FF, Benzene Waste Operations
Part 61, L, Benzene-Coke By-product Recovery Plants

References: 61.130
61.340
61.341
61.355(a)
61.355(b)(2)
61.355(c)(1)(i)(B)

Abstract:

How are the annual waste quantity and the flow-weighted annual average benzene concentration determined for a facility subject to both Sections L and FF?

The quantity and concentration can be determined at the exit of the ammonia still if the still is a sour water stripper and the transfer of wastes between Subpart L waste management units, process units, and the still is through a hardpiping system. If not, the calculations must be done at the exit of the process unit or waste management unit.

Letter:

March 5, 1993

Ms. Karen Wardzinski
Freedman, Levy, Kroll & Simonds
1050 Connecticut Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5366

RE: Applicability of Subpart FF NESHAP to Aristech Chemical Corp.

Dear Ms. Wardzinski:

This letter is in response to your letter of February 12, 1993 and comments submitted May 4, 1992 on the proposed benzene waste operations rule. As discussed, this source-specific application issue you raised is outside the scope of the rule clarifications and is better addressed through the normal applicability determination procedures.

You have requested clarification of how the Benzene Waste Operations NESHAP (40 CFR Part 61, Subpart FF) requirements would apply to the Tarben facility in Clairton, Pennsylvania. It has previously been determined that the Tarben facility is subject to the Subpart L NESHAP requirements for Benzene Emissions from Coke By-product Recovery Plants.

The Subpart FF determinations of the annual waste quantity and the flow-weighted annual average benzene concentration required by 61.355(a), include an allowance for sources subject to both the Subpart L and Subpart FF NESHAP. For the determination required by Subpart FF, 61.355(a), 61.355(b)(2) and 61.355(c)(1)(i)(B) allow the benzene in wastes from units controlled by Subpart L that feed into the ammonia still to be determined at the exit of the still, rather than at the unit generating the waste, provided that: (1) the transfer of wastes between units complying with the control requirements of Subpart L, process units, and the ammonia still is made through hardpiping or other enclosed system, and (2) the ammonia still meets the Subpart FF definition of sour water stripper in 61.341.

However, if a light oil sump or other unit covered by the Subpart L NESHAP sends benzene-containing wastewater to any waste management unit other than the ammonia still, then that benzene quantity and concentration is determined where the waste stream exits the process unit component or waste management unit controlled by Subpart L. Also, if there is not an enclosed system between the units controlled in accordance with Subpart L and the ammonia still, then the benzene quantity and concentration would be determined where the waste stream exits the process unit component or waste management unit controlled by Subpart L.

Based upon your proposed rule comments and February letter, Aristech would meet the hardpiping requirements for the transfer of wastes as discussed above. In addition, you have stated that the ammonia still, which is owned and operated by USX, will receive benzene wastes and does meet the definition of sour water stripper in 61.341. Therefore, Aristech is allowed to determine the benzene quantity for its Tarben waste stream at the exit of the ammonia still owned and operated by USX.

In a phone conversation with Daniel Couturier of my staff, it was stated that Aristech and USX are both sending wastewater to the ammonia still. Since the NESHAP requirements affect each source individually, there must be a method to clearly determine the proportionate benzene quantity accountable to each source. The particulate configuration and operation of the separately owned systems should be factored into the accounting responsibilities. Please discuss this situation and the associated recordkeeping and reporting requirements with the EPA Region III office.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniel Couturier of my staff at (703) 308-8678.

Sincerely,

John B. Rasnic, Director
Stationary Source Compliance Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

cc: Benzene NESHAP Regional Coordinators I-X
John Seitz (MD-10)
Thomas Maslany (3AT-23)
Charles Goetz, Allegheny County