

Environmental Challenges in the Petroleum Refining Industry

Barbara F Sprott

Air Advisor

ExxonMobil Refining and Supply – Baytown Refinery

2011 Tulane Engineering Forum

Session G: Petroleum/Chemical

April 15th, 2011

New/Revised Regulations

- The U.S. petroleum refining industry must be prepared to meet a growing number of environmental regulatory challenges
- New and proposed federal regulations will have a significant impact on future refinery operations especially in the areas of combustion sources (flares, furnaces, FCCUs, engines, etc.)
- These impacts potentially include new emission limits, equipment retrofits, new control devices, additional monitoring and reporting requirements

New/Revised Regulations

- Some new and revised regulations expected to have significant impacts include:
 - Part 98 (Greenhouse Gases)
 - NSPS Ja (Refinery Units)
 - NSPS IIII, JJJJ and MACT ZZZZ (Internal Combustion Engines)
- The following slides contain an overview of some of the requirements of these regulations. Please contact your company Environmental Department to determine the actual requirements for your facilities
- These listed regulations are by no means the only new regulations forthcoming but are meant as examples of the regulatory complexity faced by the refining industry

Part 98 -Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

- The final Mandatory GHG Reporting Rule (MRR) published October, 2009, effective January, 2010.
- Complicated regulation (219 pages long)
- Requires monitoring / reporting of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O above certain thresholds
- Short implementation time
 - Rule proposed 4/10/2009 with Compliance date of 1/1/2010 (Begin monitoring.)
- GHGs included are CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O
- Reporting Threshold: generally >25,000 metric tons per year of CO₂
- EPA will use data to set future policies/regulations (Carbon tax or Cap & Trade)

Refinery Process Requiring Reporting (Examples)

Flares	FCCUs
Process vents to atmosphere	Cokers
Combustion Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Boilers/Process Heaters■ Incinerators /Thermal oxidizers■ Engines	Catalytic Reformers
Equipment Leaks (fugitives)	Sulfur Recovery Units
Tanks	Product Loading / Unloading

Monitoring Required (examples)

- Flare
 - Flow rates /Composition or HHV
- Process vent to atmosphere
 - Flow rates /Composition
- Combustion Sources
 - Fuel Flow Rates / Fuel Gas Analysis/ Carbon Content
- Metering requirements
 - Meters must be accurate to $\pm 2\%$
- More specific requirements for FCCUs, Catalytic Reformers, Cokers, etc

GHG rules - Future

- First Annual Reports to EPA due September 30, 2011 (recently revised from March 31, 2011)
- EPA still in the process of making Technical modifications to the rules
- Anticipate EPA will start using data for development of future rules (Cap & Trade or Carbon Tax) with rule proposal ~ 2013-2014

NSPS Ja

- Full Title:
 - Subpart Ja—Standards of Performance for Petroleum Refineries for Which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After May 14, 2007
- Final Rule Date: June 24, 2008
 - Any new, “reconstructed” or “modified” facility that began construction after May 14, 2007 must meet requirements upon startup
 - Flare and Furnace NO_x provisions are stayed.
- Essentially an updated version of NSPS J. Sources that have not been modified or reconstructed still potentially subject to NSPS J

NSPS Ja

- Affected sources
 - FCCUs
 - Fuel Gas Combustion Devices
 - Process Heaters
 - Flares
 - Sulfur Plants
 - Fluid Cokers
 - Delayed Cokers

Definitions

- **Modification** – Except flares
 - A physical or operational change resulting in increased flare emissions
 - Requires a minimum capital expenditure (7% for refineries) based on initial installation cost (No correction for inflation)
- **Flare Modification** – Modification Date 6/24/2008
(*STAYED*)
 - New piping from refinery unit or fuel gas system connected to flare,
OR
 - Flare is altered to increase flow capacity
 - No emissions increase is required
 - Example Flare Modifications:
 - Tie in a new or larger SRV
 - Tie in a natural gas line to aid flare combustion
 - Clearing a new piece of equipment to the flare

Definitions

- **Reconstruction** - Replacement of components of an existing facility such that:
 - (1) new components capital cost exceeds 50% of capital cost of comparable new facility; and
 - (2) technologically/economically feasible to meet applicable standards
 - Cost includes all depreciable components replaced within any 2-year period following May 14, 2007
 - No emissions increase is required

NSPS Ja Requirements

(examples)

Source	Requirements <i>(all limits dry at 0% O₂)</i> <i>(Note: CEMS installations required to meet most requirements)</i>
FCCUs Fluid Cokers	NO _x , CO, SO ₂ , PM limits (For FCCUs, essentially codifies limits set in NSR Consent Decrees with individual companies (2000-present))
Fuel Gas Combustion Devices	H ₂ S - 60 ppmv limit (365 day avg) 162 ppmv (3-hr rolling avg)
Process Heater > 40 mmbtu/hr (CURRENTLY STAYED)	NO _x : Nat Draft - 40 ppmv (24 hr rolling avg) NO _x : Forced Draft - 60 ppmv (24 hr rolling avg) (Does not account for turn-down effects)
Delayed Cokers	Depressure to 5 psig during reactor vessel depressuring and vent exhaust gases to fuel gas system for combustion

NSPS Ja Requirements – Continued

(examples)

Source	Requirements <i>(all limits dry at 0% O₂)</i>
Sulfur Plants	<p>Primary Sulfur pits considered part of Sulfur Plant</p> <p>Capacity > 20 long tons/day (LTD): essentially same as NSPS J</p> <p>Capacity < 20 LTD: SO₂ - 2,500 ppmv (12 hr rolling avg)</p>
Flares (CURRENTLY STAYED)	<p>H₂S - 162 ppmv (3-hr rolling avg)</p> <p>Flow meters</p> <p>Total Reduced Sulfur (TRS) and H₂S CEMS</p> <p>Root Cause Failure Analysis: Flare > 500 lbs SO₂ in 24 hrs based on TRS or > 5000 kscf flare flow in 24 hrs</p> <p>Note: No exemption for downtime of flare gas recovery compressor</p>

NSPS Ja - Status

- New Flare and Process Heater NO_x rules are pending
 - Expected Process Heater NO_x limits at turn-down rates
 - Flare Requirements expected to change from Total Reduced Sulfur to Total Sulfur (more restrictive)
 - Potential flare flow compliance limit/flare minimization plan
- All other provisions are currently applicable
- Note: Applicability date is still May 14, 2007 even though portions of the rule are stayed

NSPS IIII, JJJJ and MACT ZZZZ

(Internal Combustion Engines)

- Effects new and existing Spark Ignition (SI) (i.e., gas or gasoline fired) and Compression Ignition (CI) (i.e., diesel fired)
- New engines are covered by NSPS IIII and JJJJ
 - Primarily standards for engine manufacturers
 - Owner/Operator maintenance and clean fuel requirements
- These rules have been amended several times in the last few years. NSPS JJJJ is currently being amended

MACT ZZZZ

(Internal Combustion Engines)

- Includes retrofit requirements for engines based on size and category
 - Emergency vs. non-emergency vs. low-usage
 - CI vs. SI
 - SI engines: lean burn vs. rich burn
- The newest category is existing CI engines > 500 hp which must comply by 5/3/2013
 - Requirements may include:
 - Formaldehyde/CO limits
 - Additional monitoring/testing based on controls installed
 - Crank case ventilation systems
 - Maintenance Requirements

Other Issues on the Horizon

- Refinery 114 requests
 - Clean Air Act Section 114 allows EPA to request data from regulated industries
 - On March 30, 2011, a 114 request was issued which requires extensive data collection from all 152 US Refiners for use in new rule development (Refinery MACT 3?)
 - 200+ pages that contains two parts: Questionnaire and Stack Testing
 - Some units affected include: FCCUs, Catalytic Reformers, Cokers, Combustion Devices, Sulfur plants, H₂ plants and atmospheric vents
 - Request has short deadlines. All data including stack testing is due by 8/31/11

Summary

- The U.S. petroleum refining industry must be prepared to meet a growing number of environmental regulatory challenges.
- New and proposed federal regulations will have a significant impact on future refinery operations
- More regulation is coming which might include
 - GHG Limits
 - Loss of the Startup/Shutdown/Malfunction (SSM) Exemption
 - Regulations based on recent 114 request
 - Other?

Path Forward

- Work with your company Environmental Departments to understand the implications of these new regulations on your facilities
- Work with advocacy groups (NPRA, API, LMOGA, TXOGA, etc.) during rule proposal period to provide feedback on rule impact and feasibility
- Oh, and there's almost always a job opening in the Environmental Department. It's a growing field.

Questions?