UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

APR 06 2000

4APT-ARB

Mr. Howard L. Rhodes, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Resources Management
Mail Station 5500
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

RECEIVED
APR 1 2000
DIVISION OF AIR
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SUBJ: Beryllium-Containing Wastes

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

Thank you for your correspondence, dated March 28, 2000, requesting an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determination regarding the applicability of the national emission standard for beryllium (40 C.F.R. part 61, subpart C) to municipal waste combustor (MWC) units subject to the emission guideline requirements of 40 C.F.R. part 60, subpart Cb. The question being addressed is whether a MWC unit is subject to the beryllium standard, because their air permit contains an emission limit for beryllium, although the unit does not accept or combust beryllium-containing wastes (as defined under subpart C).

Existing MWC units with a capacity to combust greater than 250 tons per day of municipal solid waste (MSW) are subject to 40 CFR part 60, subpart Cb (except as exempted in §60.32b). Pursuant to subpart Cb:

> "MSW" is defined as household, commercial/retail, and institutional waste. Household waste includes material discarded by single and multiple residential dwellings, hotels, motels, and other similar permanent or temporary housing establishments or facilities. Commercial/retail waste includes material discarded by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, nonmanufacturing activities at industrial facilities, and other similar establishments or facilities. Institutional waste includes material discarded by schools, nonmedical waste discarded by hospitals, material discarded by nonmanufacturing activities at prisons and government facilities, and material discared by similar establishments or facilities. Household, commercial/retail, and institutional waste does not include used oil, sewage sludge, wood pallets, construction, renovation and demolition wastes (including but not limited to railroad ties and telephone poles), clean wood, industrial process or manufacturing waste, medical waste, or motor vehicles (including motor vehicle parts or vehicle fluff). Household, commercial/retail, and institutional wastes include yard waste, refuse-derived fuel, and motor vehicle maintenance materials limited to vehicle batteries and tires (as specified in the rule).

> "MWC units" are defined as any setting or equipment that combusts solid, liquid, or gasified MSW including but not limited to, field-erected incinerators (with or without heat recovery), modular incinerators (starved-air or excess-air), boilers (i.e., steam generating units), furnaces (whether suspension-fired, grate-fired, mass-fired, air curtain incinerators, or fluidized bed-fired), and pyrolysis/combustion units. MWC units do not include pyrolysis/combustion units located at a plastics/rubber recycling units, cement kilns firing MSW, or internal combustion engines, gas turbines, or other combustion devices that combust landfill gases collected by landfill gas collection systems.

The provisions of 40 C.F.R. part 61, subpart C, are applicable to extraction plants, ceramic plants, foundries, incinerators, and propellant plants which process beryllium ore, beryllium, beryllium oxide, beryllium alloys, or beryllium-containing waste. Beryllium-containing waste is defined as material contaminated with beryllium and/or beryllium compounds used or generated during any process or operation performed by a source subject to subpart C. For this standard, an incinerator means any furnace used in the process of burning waste for the primary purpose of reducing the volume of the waste by removing combustible matter.

EPA addressed the issue at question in July 16, 1979, correspondence from the Division of Stationary Source Enforcement to EPA Region II regarding the definition of beryllium-containing waste in §61.31 (see Enclosure). According to this determination, beryllium-containing waste does not include materials such as scrap metals and calculators which may be burned at municipal waste incinerators. Beryllium-containing wastes only include wastes generated at ceramic plants, extraction plants, foundries, and propellant plants. However, should any of these wastes be disposed of at a municipal waste incinerator, that incinerator would be subject to the subpart C beryllium regulations. This same conclusion would also apply to MWC units; they would not be subject to subpart C requirements unless the unit combusted beryllium-containing waste from a subpart C affected facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in this determination. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Scott Davis of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9127.

Sincerely,

R. Douglas Neeley
Chief
Air and Radiation Technology Branch
Air, Pesticides and Toxics
Management Division

Enclosure

cc: Don Elias, RTP Environmental Associates
Walt Stevenson, OAQPS
Debbie Thomas, OECA

Determination Detail

Control Number: ZC012

Category: NESHAP
EPA Office: DSSE
Date: 07/16/1979
Title: Beryllium Containing Wastes
Recipient: Dvorkin, Stephen A.
Author: Reich, Edward E.
Comments:

Abstract:

Does the term "beryllium containing wastes" include materials such as scrap metals and discarded electronic calculators which may be burned in municipal incinerators?

The term beryllium containing wastes includes only those wastes generated by a foundry, extraction plant, ceramic plant, or propellant plant.

Letter:

Control Number: ZC12

July 16, 1979

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Beryllium Regulations

FROM: Director
Division of Stationary Source Enforcement

TO: Stephen A. Dvorkin, Chief
General Enforcement Branch
Region II

This is a response to your memo of May 10, 1979, in which you requested a determination regarding the applicability of the beryllium standard to municipal incinerators. Basically, you asked whether the term "beryllium containing waste", as defined in •61.31(g) of the regulations, includes materials such as discarded electronic calculators and scrap metals which may be burned in municipal incinerators or whether it includes only those beryllium wastes generated at ceramic plants, extraction plants, foundries, and propellant plants.

I interpret the term "beryllium containing waste", defined as:

"material contaminated with beryllium and/or beryllium compounds used or generated during any process or operation performed by a source subject to this subpart"

to include only those wastes generated by a foundry, extraction plant, ceramic plant or propellant plant. While one might argue that incinerators are also "sources subject to this subpart" (see above definition) and that any beryllium wastes that contain beryllium which are burned in any incinerator should be subject to the standard, the control techniques and background documents do not support such an interpretation.

Section 3.6 of the document entitled "Control Techniques for Beryllium Air Pollutants" (February 1973) contains a discussion of methods for disposal of beryllium containing wastes. The document clearly indicates that it was the incineration of wastes generated by extraction plants, ceramic plants, propellant plants and foundries that we were concerned about in developing the standard. Moreover, the Economic Impact section of the document "Background Information on Development of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Asbestos, Beryllium, and Mercury" (March 1973) discusses the impact of the standard on only four industries: ceramic plants, extraction plants, propellant plants, and foundries. An assumption is made that most of the sources in those four categories will incinerate their own wastes on site. Thus, the cost of controlling emissions from beryllium incinerators seems to be taken into account in estimating the cost of the standard to the four listed source categories. This is one further indication that the standard was only intended to apply to the incineration of wastes generated at foundries, ceramic plants, extraction plants, and propellant plants. There certainly is no indication in either the preambles to the proposed and promulgated standards or any of the background documents that the standard was intended to apply to each municipal incinerator.

While most generators of "beryllium containing waste" may incinerate their wastes on site it is possible that in some cases they may transport the wastes to another facility for disposal. Should the wastes be disposed of at a municipal incinerator, that incinerator would be subject to the beryllium regulations. The regulations apply to any incinerator which burns beryllium containing wastes generated at a foundry, ceramic plant, propellant plant or extraction plant.

If the Regional Offices are not certain where beryllium containing wastes are being incinerated and whether the incineration facilities are in compliance with the NESHAP regulations, it might be desirable to request this information from the owners of beryllium waste generators via •114 letter. In this manner, a list of incinerators subject to the beryllium standard could be assembled.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please contact Libby Scopino of my staff at FTS 755-2564.

Edward E. Reich

cc: Simms Roy, ESED
Stu Roth, R. II, Enf.