EPA Broadens Definition of “Remote” Sites for Stationary Engine Air Compliance

A change in the definition of what a “remote” site is in EPA’s NESHAP Subpart ZZZZ air compliance regulations could bring good news for companies with stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE). Stationary RICE engines are typically used at natural gas compressor stations, for other uses in the oil and gas industry and for landfills.

The modified definition, which went into effect January 30, 2016, makes a change to what is considered to be “remote.” If a company’s RICE is remote, the engine will be exempt from Subpart ZZZZ requirements for initial compliance testing.

According to the new rule, a remote engine is now considered to be:

* Engines located on a pipeline segment (e.g., compressor units, metering stations, valves and pipe )…
* In areas with 10 or fewer buildings intended for human occupancy and no buildings with 4 or more stories within 220 yards on either side of the centerline of a continuous 1 mile of pipeline, or,
* In areas not within 100 yards of a building or outside recreation or playground area that’s occupied by 20 or more persons at least 5 days per week, 10 weeks per year.
  + Engines NOT on pipeline segments…
* In any areas within 0.25 miles of 5 or fewer buildings intended for human occupancy.

It will still be a company’s responsibility to ensure the engine still meets the remote definition each year. However, if an engine is now considered remote, instead of reporting and testing requirements, companies will only need to follow certain work and management practices for that engine, including:

1. Operating and maintaining the stationary RICE according to the manufacturer’s emission-related operation and maintenance instructions, and,

2. Developing or following your own maintenance plan which must provide, to the extent practicable, for the maintenance and operation of the engine in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practice for minimizing emissions.

EPA’s NESHAP, or National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants. These standards require companies follow extensive tracking and reporting. Previously, to be remote, a stationary RICE would’ve needed to be in Alaska and not on the federal aid highway system. By broadening the definition, many sources will become exempt from initial testing requirements, saving oil and gas companies thousands of dollars in emissions tracking, testing and reporting each year.

Where Can I Find Assistance?

If you need help in navigating through these air compliance issues, or need help with reporting, inspections, determinations, training, or anything else, please contact iSi at (888) 264-7050 or email us at feedback@isienvironmental.com for a price quote!