**Template Letter**

**U. S. EPA’s Proposed amendments to Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines (EG) for Large Municipal Waste Combustors**

**NOTE:** The *NTAA recommends that you begin your comment letter with introductory remarks regarding the signatory’s position within the Tribe. The more individualized the letter, the greater its potential impact. Feel free to add your own arguments or specific stories that will make it educational for the EPA. Be sure to replace the highlighted text with your own text.*

*This proposed rule is a review and strengthening of the requirements to reduce emissions of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and multiple air toxics from approximately 57 existing large waste incinerators and “energy recovery” facilities. It also strengthens the emissions control requirements for any newly proposed large waste combustion units. Two exceptions to this proposal are noteworthy: (1) Air curtain destructors, as often deployed for forest management and landscape materials, are exempt from this proposal; and (2) the pending actions of the Good Neighbor Plan will supersede these rules in the Ozone Transport Region. The proposed rules also reflect advancements in technologies, operating procedures, and monitoring systems since the rule was last modified in 2006. To the extent that these air pollution issues affect your Tribe, please include specific concerns.*

*The comment deadline is* ***March 25, 2024.***  *Your comment letter can be submitted electronically to the Federal Rulemaking Portal.* <https://www.regulations.gov/> OR email to a-r-Docket@epa.gov.

Date

EPA Docket Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

 RE Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0183

**Comments from the [INSERT TRIBE’S NAME HERE] on EPA’s Proposed Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Large Municipal Waste Combustors (LMWCs): Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0183**

The **[INSERT TRIBE’S NAME HERE]** is pleased to submit these comments and recommendations regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Proposed Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Large Municipal Waste Combustors (LMWCs**)** as published in the *Federal Register* on January 23, 2024.

Effective and culturally appropriate management of “waste materials” has been both important and challenging for Tribal communities for centuries. As we continuously improve our reuse and recycling practices, we are cognizant of the many large waste combustors that neither reuse nor recycle materials, and, only at selected sites, capture useful energy from these units.

Concurrently, emissions from these facilities contribute numerous pollutants to our atmosphere that impair the health of our people. **[INSERT TRIBE’S NAME HERE]** supports the updates and strengthening of emissions requirements as proposed in EPA’s Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Large Municipal Waste Combustors (LMWCs).

Particulate Matter and Ozone

When fully implemented the updated LMWC rules will reduce emissions of each of the nine identified air pollutants. Greatest benefits will be from reductions in particulate matter (including PM2.5 precursors) and atmospheric ozone through reductions in precursors. Air quality improvements with associated benefits to our Tribal health will be experienced in areas that exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for one or both of these “criteria air pollutants”. It is noteworthy that required reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) will reduce atmospheric formation of both ozone and PM2.5.

Reduced emissions of particulate matter and ozone precursors will be beneficial for reasons beyond the somewhat quantifiable benefits to human health. Albeit in different ways both pollutants contribute to global warming. Reduced emissions will be beneficial in mitigating climate change – an issue of great concern to our people.

Ozone is a powerful oxidizing agent that causes damage to multiple plant species. Agriculture and forest health will benefit from lower concentrations of atmospheric ozone.

Hazardous Air Pollutants

EPA provides the following estimates of reduction in emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) once the proposed rule is implemented: Hydrogen Chloride = 334 tons per year (tpy); Mercury = 0.0285 tpy; all other HAPs = 0.225 tpy. Projected benefits of these reduced emissions are noted, but not monetized.

The health, environments, and lifeways of Tribes in much of the U.S., including **[INSERT TRIBE’S NAME HERE]** have been impacted by unhealthful exposures to particulate matter and ozone. Acid gases and toxic metals affect our ecosystems, crops, and lifeways. Emissions from municipal waste combustors located beyond our borders contribute to these impacts.

In conclusion, the [**INSERT TRIBE’S NAME HERE]** supports strengthened limits on air pollution emissions from all municipal waste combustors including controls on large existing and new facilities.

Respectfully submitted by

**[INSERT TRIBAL OFFICIAL’S NAME AND TITLE]**