Canada-wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans: Conical Waste Combustion of Municipal Waste

2006 Review Report


Unique to Newfoundland and Labrador, as of 2001 the burning of municipal waste in combustors resulted in an estimated annual release of 44.0 g TEQ/year to the atmosphere based on best available emission factors and volumes of waste burned. This corresponded to 27 percent of the national total of dioxins and furans emissions to the atmosphere documented in the 2001 inventory of releases prepared under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).

Due to the design of conical waste combustors, emission controls are not a feasible option for reducing releases of dioxins and furans from conical waste combustors. Therefore, this standard proposes to phase out the operation of conical waste combustors in Newfoundland and Labrador, and prevent the operation of new conical waste combustors anywhere in Canada.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to phasing out existing conical waste combustors within the Province by 2008. The Newfoundland and Labrador Waste Management Strategy identified a total of 52 conical waste combustors servicing 187,438 people for closure by 2008. To date 27 conical waste combustors servicing 106,858 people have been closed resulting in a 57% reduction in atmospheric emissions of dioxins and furans. This has enabled Newfoundland and Labrador to exceed its interim goal of a 40% reduction by 2005. Provincial Air Pollution Control Regulations (www.env.gov.nl.ca/env) were amended in May 2004 to include stack concentration limits for dioxins and furans for any new incineration source.

Since this standard involves a complete phase out of these combustors as opposed to an emissions level target, and Newfoundland and Labrador has exceeded the Interim 2005 target, it is recommended that no formal review is necessary and that this update be accepted in place of a formal review.