Resource Conservation Recovery Act/Subtitle C: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Finalizes Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule

Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") finalized revisions to its Subtitle C Hazardous Waste regulations.

The revisions are denominated to Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule ("rule").

The Subtitle C hazardous regulations affect several hundred thousand generators of hazardous waste. The affected businesses or facilities range from tiny service operators to Fortune 500 manufacturing plants. Also affected are hazardous waste transporters along with treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

EPA states as its objectives in issuing the rule:

- Reorganizing hazardous waste generator regulations to make them more user-friendly
- Improvement of the hazardous waste generator regulations usability by the regulated community
- Providing a better understanding of how the Resource Conservation Recovery Act ("RCRA") hazardous waste generator regulatory program works
- Addressing gaps in the existing regulations to strengthen environmental protection
- Providing greater flexibility for hazardous waste generators to manage their hazardous waste in a cost-effective and protective manner
- Making technical corrections and conforming changes to address inadvertent errors and remove obsolete references to programs that no longer exist

Arkansas's Subtitle C regulations are encompassed by Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulation No. 23. The state will be required to adopt within a designated period of time the components of the rule necessary to ensure it is no less stringent than the revised federal Subtitle C program.

Future posts will review specific components of the rule.

A link to the 369-page pre-publication rule can be found here.