



United States Steel Corporation  
1350 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market St, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[irrc@irrc.state.pa.us](mailto:irrc@irrc.state.pa.us)

Re: **United States Steel Corporation Comments  
Regulation #7-561: Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs for the  
2015 Ozone NAAQS**

Dear Sir or Madam:

United States Steel Corporation (U. S. Steel) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments to the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) in response to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)'s proposed additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS (RACT III), IRRC #3310. U. S. Steel specifically notes that the scope of the presumptive RACT limits in the RACT III regulations is much broader than the scope of prior RACT rules. We respectfully request PADEP provide additional time for sources to evaluate and comply with the RACT III requirements.

**1. §129.111. Applicability.**

§129.111(a) notes that the owner or operator shall identify and list the following sources and facilities in the written notification required under § 129.115(a) (relating to written notification, compliance demonstration and recordkeeping and reporting requirements):

*(1) The sources and facilities for which a requirement or emission limitation has not been established in §§ 129.51, 129.52(a)–(k) and Table I categories 1–11, 129.52a–129.52e, 129.54–129.63a, 129.64–129.69, 129.71–129.73, 129.75, 129.77 and 129.101–129.107.*

*(2) The sources and facilities subject to §§ 129.51, 129.52(a)–(k) and Table I categories 1–11, 129.52a–129.52e, 129.54–129.63a, 129.64–129.69, 129.71–129.73, 129.75, 129.77 and 129.101–129.107.*

U. S. Steel requests that PADEP revise the written notification to only include the facility's sources that are subject to the additional RACT (RACT III) requirements based on the proposed rulemaking, not sources subject to prior RACT limits or exemptions. This condition is overly burdensome for large sources within the commonwealth for which the agency should already have this information.

**2. § 129.112. Presumptive RACT requirements, RACT emission limitations and petition for alternative compliance schedule.**

U. S. Steel requests that the PADEP extend the compliance dates for facilities to comply with RACT III requirements to allow the appropriate time for facilities to evaluate the emissions from a source(s), to consider options for compliance, and if needed allow time to for a facility to petition the agency for an alternative RACT proposal and/or petition for alternative compliance schedule. While the proposed rule does provide a mechanism for sources to apply for alternative RACT limits and alternative schedules, we believe the “presumptive” schedule afforded to sources to otherwise comply with the RACT requirements, i.e., those sources required to comply by January 1, 2023, is unreasonable such that many sources will be compelled to seek an alternative schedule. Such requests will provide an unreasonable burden on sources and regulatory agency resources. If the schedule is revised such that sources are afforded a more reasonable schedule to evaluate and comply (e.g., 2 years instead of ~ 1 year), many sources would not be forced into seeking an alternate compliance schedule.

**3. §129.112. Presumptive RACT requirements, RACT emission limitations and petition for alternative compliance schedule.**

In §129.112(k), PADEP included the following new requirement for presumptive RACT:

*(k) The owner and operator of a direct-fired heater, furnace or oven with a rated heat input equal to or greater than 20 million Btu/hour subject to §129.111 shall comply with the presumptive RACT emission limitation of 0.10 lb NO<sub>x</sub>/million Btu heat input on a daily average basis or as determined through a stack test.*

In the proposed RACT III regulations, PADEP proposed to apply the same NO<sub>x</sub> limit for a direct-fired heater, furnace, or oven as the limit for indirect-fired furnaces established in RACT II. The basis of this determination is not clear from the rulemaking record and is inconsistent with prior determinations. There are significant technological differences between direct-fired heaters, furnaces, and ovens and indirect-fired units. During prior RACT rulemakings and evaluations, the technologies employed for indirect-fired units have been shown to not be technologically or economically feasible for direct-fired units.

In addition, U. S. Steel respectfully requests that PADEP provide additional information to support the “presumptive RACT” requirement for direct-fired units. Most indirect-furnace technologies are not transferrable to direct-furnace units without major modifications, effects to product capacity and quality, increased fuel usage, and potential derating of a furnace.

At a minimum, U. S. Steel requests that the PADEP recognize that there are direct-fired heaters, furnaces and ovens that are critical to production of steel and other manufacturing and recognize that the broad stroke of applying a presumptive NO<sub>x</sub> or VOC emission limitation or requirement may have an impact on production and product quality negatively impacting the manufacturer.

U. S. Steel additionally requests that the PADEP identify which fuel or fuels were assumed to be combusted in the direct-fired sources from which the presumptive RACT limit of 0.1 lb NO<sub>x</sub>/mmbtu was derived.

**4. § 129.115. Written notification, compliance demonstration and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.**

§129.115(a) requests that the facility with sources subject to the additional RACT requirement or RACT emission limitation in §129.112—129.114 submit written notification, but it also requires that the facility provide much more level of detail, including sources exempted from §129.112—129.114, based on §129.111(a)(1) and (2). Further, the written notification must include a description, including make, model and location, of each source, the applicable RACT requirement or RACT emission limitation, or both, how the owner or operator shall comply, and the reason why the source is exempt from the RACT requirements and RACT emission limitations in §129.112—129.114.

The purpose of the requirement is unclear and burdensome. Furthermore, requiring sources to advise the department of a compliance methodology within 6 months of the effective date is not reasonable considering some sources will have to generate data, determine compliance, and review technologies. Refer to second comment above about the overall compliance deadlines.

U. S. Steel appreciates IRRC's careful consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at (412) 433-5904 or [cwhardin@uss.com](mailto:cwhardin@uss.com).

Respectfully,



Christopher Hardin  
Environmental Manager  
Environmental Affairs, U. S. Steel Corporation