

Comments by Biomass Busters

(Biomass Busters is a project of the Biomass Accountability Project, Biofuelwatch, Energy Justice Network, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, and Save America's Forests.)

EPA's "Boiler Rule" Revision

Feb. 26, 2011 The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) released revised "Boiler Rule" regulations establishing "Maximum Available Control Technology" (MACT) for industrial and commercial boilers, including those that burn biomass for electricity.

The rule sets guidelines for emissions of particulates, carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride, mercury and dioxins/furans for "major source" emitters and particulates, and carbon monoxide for "area source" emitters (most biomass incinerators). A new category combines coal and biomass boilers, allowing most biomass incinerators not to have to install scrubbers for mercury, hydrochloric acid, and some other pollutants. Smaller units will be required only to conduct regular "tune-ups" rather than being held to numeric emissions limits.

Biomass industry lobbying resulted in the weakened regulations, which have rolled back public health protections from air pollutants.