

## **EPA behind on setting emissions guidelines**

Yeganeh June Torbati, New York Times

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Washington - -- The Environmental Protection Agency is 10 years behind schedule in setting guidelines for a host of toxic air pollutants, according to a report from the agency's inspector general.

The report, which was released last week, found that the agency had failed to develop emissions standards, due in 2000, for some sources of hazardous air pollutants. These included smaller sites often located in urban areas, like dry cleaners and gas stations, but also some chemical manufacturers.

The inspector general also found that the agency had not met targets outlined in a 1999 planning document, the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy, including tracking urban dwellers' risk of developing health problems from exposure to pollutants.

Some experts said the failures were persisting largely because the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, which is responsible for regulating air pollutants, lacked the money needed to meet its deadlines.

In a written response to the report, EPA officials also said budget cuts had made it difficult to meet their deadlines, noting that "air toxics support has been cut over 70 percent" since 2001.

Frank O'Donnell, the president of Clean Air Watch, an environmental watchdog group based in Washington, said the inspector general's report made clear that "the issue of breathing cancer-causing chemicals in city air is something of an orphan issue."

For example, the agency's last assessment of the risk of toxic air pollutants is based on emissions data from 2002. That analysis found that 1 in 28,000 people, or 36 in 1 million, could develop cancer from lifetime exposure to air toxics from outdoor sources. That number is an average, however, and people living in densely populated cities may face a higher risk.

The people most exposed, O'Donnell said, "are probably not out in the wheat farms - they're going to be people living near where the bus depots are."

The agency noted in its response to the report that for the first time in a decade, funds are shifting to the air toxics program this year to meet regulatory deadlines.

## **Wilhoit re-elected Clean Air's leader**

Stockton Record, Saturday, June 26, 2010

Douglass Wilhoit, chief executive officer of the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, has been elected to a second term as board president of Valley Clean Air Now.

Valley CAN is a nonprofit advocacy group that focuses on improving air quality in communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley.