

that it is appropriate in some instances to round the results to two decimal places. This approach encompasses the specific statistically-derived numbers, while acknowledging that there is some residual uncertainty about the representativeness of the data. Thus, while we believe generally that our use of the 95th percentile adequately identifies the range of actual performance of individual facilities, our rounding approach should alleviate any concerns regarding whether the statistics sufficiently capture the full range of ordinary performance of the best-performing units over time and under the most adverse circumstances that can be reasonably expected to occur.

Changes resulting from rounding will have no practical effect on how industry responds to the emission limitations. That is, the control technology needed is exactly the same and the equipment must be operated in the same manner regardless of whether the numbers are rounded or not. A properly designed and operated control device will still be required to meet the rounded emission limit. Today's final rule has provisions for operating parameters and operation and maintenance plans to ensure proper operation. Thus, other than serving to better reflect uncertainties in the underlying data, the rounding has no practical impact on the stringency of the requirements.

Additional information on the statistical analysis used to confirm and refine our emissions estimates, including the data used and the complete ranking of sources, is available in the docket.

The objective of both the MACT floor methodology used at proposal, and the methodology used here to confirm and refine the proposed estimates of performance, is exactly the same. For each relevant operation at integrated iron and steel facilities, both approaches expressly are intended to provide a quantified estimate of the emission performance of the best-controlled similar source, or of the average emission limitation achieved by the relevant best-performing sources in the category, taking into consideration the ordinary and unavoidable variations in process operations and performance of the emissions control equipment.

Moreover, the conclusions growing from the supplemental statistical analysis, regarding the levels of performance that reflect the MACT floor for both new and existing units, in large measure simply confirm that the analysis underlying the proposal provided a reasonable estimation of performance.

Indeed, none of the refinements to our performance estimates will have any practical effect on how industry responds to the emission limitations. As is the case with our decision to round the emission estimates, any changes in the emission limitations in the final rule will require the same control technology as would have been needed to meet the proposed limits, and the control equipment will need to be operated in the same manner as would have been the case with the proposed emission limitations.

For three emission points (sinter cooler, sinter plant discharge end, and control devices for BOPF fugitive emissions), we had only one or two test results. Consequently, we did not have an adequate set of emissions test data to directly estimate the actual performance of the top-performing sources. Consequently, we developed the floors for these three emission points based on the facilities subject to the most stringent State regulations or permit limits, and we used the available emissions information (emissions data and a characterization of the operational processes and emissions controls) to confirm that the identified State limits reasonably reflect the actual performance of the relevant best-performing units. That is, the best units are able to achieve the required State limits but are not consistently achieving a level of emissions performance that is more stringent than the State limits. The EPA may use State limits as long as we demonstrate that such limits provide a reasonable estimate of the actual performance of the best-performing sources.

For floors based on State opacity regulations that limit fugitive emissions, we collected additional data and found that sources are achieving a level of performance that is within the current limits, but they are not consistently achieving a level of control more stringent than the identified State limits. Consequently, we believe these State limits provide an accurate picture of the best sources' actual performance considering inherent and unavoidable variability. We used this approach to develop the MACT floor for opacity from the sinter plant discharge end, blast furnace casthouse, and BOPF shop.

We provide additional rationale in the following sections where we discuss in detail the development of the MACT floors for each emission point.

1. Sinter Plant Windbox Exhaust

Comment. One commenter stated that EPA proposed an emission limitation of 0.3 lb/ton of PM based on the performance of either a baghouse or

scrubber. According to the commenter, EPA's floor does not reflect the actual performance of the relevant best sources—the average emission limitation achieved by the top five sources. As shown in the BID, the average emission limitation achieved by the best-performing five sources is 0.079 pound per ton (lb/ton), not the proposed limit of 0.3 lb/ton. Second, floor reflects what EPA believed to be achievable with the control technologies and not the actual performance of the relevant best sources. Third, EPA admits that several factors other than the performance of the technologies influence emissions.

Response. As we documented in appendix B of the BID, the floor for sinter plant windboxes was based on actual source test data and the five best-performing sources. We collected test data and verified that EPA Method 5 (40 CFR part 60, appendix A) was used. We ranked the results (in lb/ton of sinter) and calculated the average of the five best-performing sources (0.3 lb/ton). Contrary to the commenter's assertion, we did not rely on control technology to identify the best-performing units or to estimate the performance of the best units. In this particular case, we had adequate test data to directly estimate the average emission limitation achieved by the five best-performing sources.

The calculation performed by the commenter is inappropriate and does not provide an accurate estimate of the emission limitation achieved by the plants. The commenter misinterpreted the information in the BID, which is not source test data, but is simply a best estimate of annual average emissions based on approximate emissions factors and the assumption that all plants operate continuously at their design capacity. Such an estimate cannot be used to represent actual performance in a MACT floor calculation.

After proposal, we reviewed our approach for developing the MACT floor and concluded that our original analysis did not sufficiently account for the normal and unavoidable variability inherent in the process operations and emission control equipment (as demonstrated by the emission test data). The average performance of the five best-performing sinter plants ranged from 0.26 to 0.32 lb/ton of sinter. To account for inherent variability, we applied the z-statistic to estimate the 95th percentile of a normal distribution for each source. The median of the 95th percentiles of the five best-performing sources is 0.4 lb/ton, which we chose to represent the MACT floor. This level of performance reasonably reflects the