

WBR ARTICLE

Wyo acid plant to clean up act

By Staff

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RIVERTON — Three sulfuric acid manufacturers, including one on the Wind River Indian Reservation, have agreed to spend at least \$12 million on air pollution controls to eliminate more than 3,000 tons of harmful emissions annually.

The manufacturers, Chemtrade Logistics, Chemtrade Refinery Services and Marsulex also will pay a civil penalty of \$700,000 under the Clean Air Act settlement. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Justice Department announced the agreement yesterday.

"The companies are expected to reduce harmful air pollution by...well over half of their annual emissions," said Granta Y. Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

"This settlement is the product of our sustained effort to bring all sulfuric acid manufacturers into compliance with the Clean Air Act," said Michael Guzman, principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division. "We are pleased that the cooperative effort among us, our state counterparts, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the defendants resulted in this victory for the environment."

Between January 2010 and January 2013, Chemtrade will upgrade existing pollution control equipment called scrubbers to meet new, lower emission limits for sulfur dioxide at its Riverton plant as well as three others in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Chemtrade's and Marsulex's plants produce sulfuric acid by burning sulfur or used sulfuric acid, creating the byproduct sulfur dioxide, which poses a danger to children, the elderly and people with heart and lung conditions.

The government's complaint, filed with the consent decree, alleges that Chemtrade and Marsulex made modifications to their plants, which increased emissions of sulfur dioxide without first obtaining pre-construction permits and installing required pollution control equipment. The Clean Air Act requires major sources of air pollution to obtain such permits before making changes that would result in a significant emissions increase of any pollutant.

For more information on the settlement, go to http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html