

## Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Rule Deadline Extended

*Agency extends deadline for spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans.*

*Compiled by staff*

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The EPA has extended the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure rule compliance date.

Under EPA's proposal, the compliance date, originally set for Nov. 10, 2011, will be extended to May 10, 2013. If no adverse comments are received, the proposal extension will become effective Nov. 7.

The direct final rule extending the deadline is published in the Oct. 17, 2011, edition of the Federal Register.

The SPCC rule requires farmers to have secondary containment structures around most above-ground oil and fuel storage containers when the farm has the aggregate capacity to store more than 1,320 gallons. A written spill plan and other items are also required.

According to an EPA spokesperson, "An overwhelming segment of the continental U.S. was affected by flooding during the spring and summer of 2011. Other areas were impacted by devastating fires. Many counties in many states were declared disaster areas by either the federal or state government or both.

"As a result, the EPA believes that because of their unique nature, farmers have been disproportionately affected and need additional time to prepare and implement a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan."

"This is a tremendous victory for rice farmers," USA Rice Federation Environmental and Regulatory Subcommittee Chairman and Arkansas rice farmer Ray Vester says. "Compliance with this rule, which was never intended to apply to producers, would have cost farmers thousands of dollars at a time when many are reeling from significant losses."

Since 2003, the USA Rice Federation has been working with EPA to convey the compliance difficulties rice farmers would encounter under the requirements.

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