



US Environmental Protection Agency  
Air and Radiation  
Office of Transportation and Air Quality

March 25, 1996

Mobil Paulsboro Technology Center  
Frank P. Di Sanzo, Consultant  
PTC Analytical Services Group  
P.O. Box 480  
Paulsboro, New Jersey 08066

Dear Mr. Di Sanzo,

This is in response to your December 17, 1995, petition for GC/FTIR test equivalency for measuring oxygenates, benzene and total aromatics in gasolines.

EPA has decided to undertake a rulemaking that would ultimately establish a performance based test method approach for the measurement of the reformulated gasoline (RFG) parameters at CFR 80.46. We envision that this rulemaking would provide flexibility to the regulated industry in their choice of test methods to be utilized under the RFG and conventional gasoline programs without having to petition the Agency for their utilization if the test method differs from the Federal test method. We expect to finalize this rulemaking by September 1, 1998.

In the meantime, in an effort to provide flexibility until the above mentioned rule is promulgated, EPA plans to expeditiously initiate a rulemaking that would extend the deadline for the use of alternative test procedures for aromatics and oxygenates at §80.46 until September 1, 1998. EPA hopes to complete this rulemaking to extend the deadline before the end of 1996.

We hope that this guidance provides the relief that your company is seeking. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Joseph Sopata of my staff at 202-233-9034.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Freed  
Director  
Fuels and Energy Division

cc: Margo Oge - OMS  
Janet Bearden - OECA  
George Lawrence - OECA  
Terry Hogan - API  
Terrence Higgins - NPRA