

**STATEMENT OF THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ON COURT'S DECISION ON CLEAN AIR RULES**

May 14, 1999

“EPA stands by the need for the health protections embodied by the clean air standards and the science behind them. The soot and smog standards put in place almost two years ago will protect the health of 125 million Americans, including 35 million children. In fact, today’s ruling from a panel of judges from the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia does not question the science and process conducted by EPA justifying the setting of new, more protective standards. However, the panel called into question the constitutionality of the primary public health provisions of the Clean Air Act that on numerous occasions have been ratified by Congress and, until now, the courts. These provisions have afforded the American people with strong public health protections for over 25 years. EPA is currently reviewing all options to preserve these standards, but intends to recommend an appeal to the Department of Justice. If the courts fail to uphold these protective standards, Congress must ensure that these protections are preserved for the American people and EPA stands ready to work with them.”

R-51

###