

Final

STATIONARY SOURCE VOLUNTARY MEASURES POLICY

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! In an effort to encourage the use of cost-effective emission reduction measures, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued guidelines for State air quality agencies that want to take pollution-reduction credit for voluntary emission reduction efforts.
- ! Today's policy, which applies only to stationary facilities, allows States to take credit for voluntary measures in their State implementation plans, or SIPs. A SIP is a plan containing specific steps an area will take to meet national air quality standards. States may use voluntary measures credits for up to 3 percent of the reductions needed for a particular area.
- ! Voluntary measures are an alternative to traditional emission control approaches and encourage facilities to undertake new, untried and cost-effective approaches to reduce emissions. Under today's policy, facilities are not required to take these steps and are not subject to penalties if they fail to implement the measures for any reason.
- ! The major targets of this policy are small sources of air pollution that are not currently regulated under the Clean Air Act. Voluntary emission reductions at these sources may help a number of areas reach air quality standards.
- ! Although today's policy is focused on helping ozone nonattainment areas, facilities in areas that are nonattainment for other pollutants, such as particulate matter or carbon monoxide, are not excluded from implementing the policy – provided that they meet certain criteria. Such criteria include a requirement that the facility not be one that strongly affects an area's nonattainment problem.
- ! This policy is intended to complement the mobile source voluntary emissions reduction policy that EPA issued in October, 1997. It does not change the provisions of that policy, and States may continue to take credit for mobile source voluntary measures, for up to 3 percent of an area's needed reductions.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY

- ! Voluntary measures may be continuous, seasonal or episodic. For example, a facility wanting to implement a continuous measure could switch to a water-based process instead of one that uses

volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Seasonal measures could include steps such as not painting equipment during the ozone season. And episodic measures could include steps such as not using hair spray containing VOCs on days when ozone levels are projected to be high.

- ! Voluntary measures may not be used to meet other Clean Air Act requirements such as Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) or Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements. In addition, existing permit or SIP requirements on sources cannot be converted to voluntary measures.
- ! In order to be approvable as a SIP revision, a voluntary measure could not interfere with other requirements of the Clean Air Act. Such measures also must be consistent with SIP attainment, maintenance or reasonable further progress/rate of progress requirements, and must yield emission reductions that are quantifiable, surplus, permanent and enforceable.
- ! Voluntary measures are not directly enforceable against the source(s) implementing the measures. If measures are not implemented as planned, or if the measures do not achieve predicted emission reduction levels, the State is responsible for remedying the shortfall.
- ! States must commit to complete an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of each voluntary measure no later than 18 months after putting the measure in place. States also must commit to correct any shortfall between predicted and actual emission reductions within an additional two years.
- ! EPA plans to evaluate the effectiveness of this policy after five years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy of the stationary source voluntary measures policy from EPA's page on the World Wide Web, go to "Recent Actions" at <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oarpg>
- ! For more information, call Eric Crump of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards, 919-541-4719.