

**FACT SHEET**

**Correction Notice and Reopening of Emissions Inventory Comment Period for EPA's Final Rule Requiring Regional NO<sub>x</sub> Reductions in the Eastern U.S.**

**TODAY'S ACTION**

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing two actions regarding EPA's recent requirements for 22 eastern states to address the regional transport of ground-level ozone (known as the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP call): a reopening of the public comment period for revisions to specific components of the SIP call's emissions inventories; and four corrections or clarifications to the final, October 27, 1998 SIP call rule.
- ◆ EPA is reopening the comment period for 60 days from the date this notice is published in the Federal Register for revisions to the 1995-1996 baseline emissions inventory data and the mobile source projections used to establish each state's 2007 budget under EPA's NO<sub>x</sub> SIP call rule. The initial comment period for EPA's final SIP call ended on November 23, 1998. This reopened comment period also applies to states that want to make revisions to their emission inventories for two related notices of proposed rulemaking: the section 126 proposal and the federal implementation plan proposal. The comment period for all other issues concerning these two proposals ended on November 30, 1998.
- ◆ This notice also:
  - corrects Table III-1 of the final SIP call: a list of State NO<sub>x</sub> budgets on an energy source basis;
  - clarifies the large source classification for electricity generating units and non-electricity generating units;
  - clarifies the dates by which large electricity generating units and large non-electricity generating units must have controls in place and demonstrate compliance if emission credits are used; and
  - corrects the formula for distributing unused new source allowances by removing an extra parenthesis.

**BACKGROUND**

- ◆ Signed on September 24, 1998 and published in the Federal Register on October 27, 1998 (63 FR 57356), EPA's "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone", also known as the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP call, requires 22 States and the District of Columbia to submit State implementation plans that address the regional transport of ground-level ozone.

- ◆ By reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides (a precursor to ozone formation known as NO<sub>x</sub>) by about 28 percent in the affected 22 states and the District of Columbia, the actions directed by these plans will decrease the transport of ozone across State boundaries in the eastern half of the United States.
- ◆ EPA projects, that when finalized this rule will bring the vast majority of all new nonattainment areas into attainment with the 8-hour standards without having to implement more costly local controls. It will also help reduce ozone levels in the remaining nonattainment areas east of the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Ozone is not emitted directly into the atmosphere. It is formed when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight. While beneficial in the upper atmosphere, ozone in the lower atmosphere can cause a variety of health problems because it damages lung tissue, reduces lung function, and adversely sensitizes the lungs to other irritants.
- ◆ The States subject to the final SIP call action are:  
  
Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.
- ◆ Through a 2-year effort known as the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (OTAG), EPA worked in partnership with the 37 eastern-most States and the District of Columbia, industry representatives, and environmental groups to address ozone transport.
- ◆ On October 21, 1998, EPA published proposals entitled “Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking on Section 126 Petitions for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Ozone Transport” (63 FR 56292) which may be referred to as the section 126 proposal; and “Federal Implementation Plans to Reduce the Regional Transport of Ozone,” (63 FR 56394) which may be referred to as the FIP proposal. EPA initially published these two proposals in a single Federal Register notice on September 30, 1998 (63 FR 52213).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- # Interested parties can download the correction notice from EPA's web site on the Internet at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/otagsip.html>). Information about the OTAG process can also be found on the Internet at: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/otag>). For further information about the correction notice, contact Kimber Scavo of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3354. For specific information about the emission inventory comment period, contact Greg Stella of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3649.