

Background on the Ozone Transport Commission's Control Measure Development Initiative

The Need for Additional Reductions

In October 1998, the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) adopted a Declaration of Principles that establishes a framework to further address the ground-level ozone problem in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). The framework includes initiatives such as regional reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), considering multi-pollutant reduction benefits when adopting ozone strategies, and regional strategies to attain the eight-hour ozone standard in the OTR.

In December 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed several jurisdictions in the OTR that their State plans would not provide sufficient emission reductions to attain the one-hour ozone standard by 2005 and 2007. EPA indicated it would grant States additional time to implement new measures if those States pursued regional strategies to control ozone and its precursors. Within this context, the OTC agreed to begin addressing the emission shortfalls by developing model rules for its member States. These model rules would provide a consistent framework for air pollution regulation throughout the OTR.

Candidate Control Measures

The OTC developed a list of candidate control measures to be investigated. The candidate control measures were divided into two groups: first, those that would be investigated in the short term, i.e., by February 2001 (Table 1 Measures), and second, those that would be investigated at a later date, i.e., by February 2002 (Table 2 Measures). These measures would help to attain and maintain the one-hour ozone standard, as well as make progress toward attaining the eight-hour ozone standard.

Table 1 measures are designed to limit emissions from:

1. Architectural and industrial maintenance coatings;
2. Consumer products (including portable fuel containers);
3. Mobile equipment repair and refinishing operations;
4. Solvent cleaning operations;
5. Fuels for on-road vehicles and off-road equipment (diesel and/or gasoline); and,
6. Fuel combustion sources, including cement kilns, gas turbines, stationary internal combustion engines, and industrial boilers.

Table 2 measures may be traditional control measures or innovative control approaches to reduce emissions of multiple pollutants. Measures being considered include:

1. System benefit charges for electricity generation;
2. Environmental performance standards for electricity generation;
3. State actions to encourage energy conservation;
4. Renewable energy programs;
5. Energy efficiency programs;
6. Airport and aviation emission reduction programs;

7. Off-road engine and vehicle initiatives; and,
8. Other programs to be identified by June 2001.

State-Led Workgroups

The Table 1 Measures were researched by groups of OTC member States (Workgroups) convened by designated lead State representatives. As the Workgroups gathered information, they sought input from the regulated community and other stakeholders in developing draft model rules. Summaries of major comments received and responses included in this binder for each draft model rule. For each of the Table 1 measures, a draft model rule, or a framework for a draft model rule, was then developed. Once the Workgroups completed reasonably developed draft model rules, the OTC Committees convened to review them and take oral and written comments from stakeholders.

In March 2001, the OTC will focus on the Table 2 measures, and State-led workgroups will follow a similar process to develop Table 2 draft model rules.

Next Steps

The Table 1 draft model rules will be further refined over the next several weeks. The OTC invites the public to submit comments. To ensure that public comments are adequately considered during model rule development, it is suggested that written comments be submitted by no later than close of business on Friday, January 12, 2001. At the Winter 2001 OTC meeting, final model rules for Table 1 Measures will be formally considered. Subsequently, member OTC States may develop State-specific regulations, based on the model rules. State-specific regulations to address SIP shortfalls must be submitted to EPA, as SIP revisions, by October 2001.

For More Information

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