



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5 - Air and Radiation Division

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## Correspondence



### Document

June 18, 1999

Robert F. Hodanbosi, Chief  
Division of Air Pollution Control  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
122 South Front Street  
P. O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-1049

Dear Mr. Hodanbosi:

For the past several months, we have had discussions with you and your staff about inconsistencies with incorporating provisions of your State Implementation Plan (SIP) as applicable requirements in operating permits under your Title V Permit Program. More specifically, we are concerned that the Best Available Technology (BAT) requirements, nuisance regulation, and toxics policy which are contained in the SIP and/or SIP-approved permits, are not identified as federally enforceable terms in your Title V permits.

On March 31, 1999, John Seitz, Director of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, wrote a letter to the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in response to their questions regarding federal enforceability. In that letter, Mr. Seitz stated our view that "all provisions contained in an EPA-approved SIP and all terms and conditions in a permit issued under any SIP-approved permit program are...federally enforceable.... [A]ll such terms and conditions are also federally enforceable 'applicable requirements' that must be incorporated into the Federal side of a Title V permit." This position was reiterated in a May 20, 1999, letter to you from

Mr. Seitz.

BAT is a requirement of State's Permit to Install (PTI) program, approved into the Ohio SIP. The PTI program serves, in part, to meet the general (or "minor") new source review requirements of section 110(a)(2)(C) of the Clean Air Act (Act), which requires SIPs to include a program for the regulation of the modification and construction of any stationary source as necessary to assure that national ambient air quality standards are achieved. Specific BAT limitations for individual sources are established in specific PTIs. Because BAT terms and conditions are created under the PTI program, which is in turn contained in the Ohio SIP, they are federally enforceable. As requirements under the SIP they also are "applicable requirements" within the meaning of the Act section 504(a) and 40 CFR 70.2 and, therefore, must reside in the Federal and State enforceable section of the Title V permit. Similarly, the terms and conditions implementing Ohio's nuisance regulation and toxics policy are included in the SIP and/or a SIP-approved permit and thus are considered federally enforceable applicable requirements for Title V purposes. They should be reflected as such in the Title V permit.

Section 505(b)(1) of the Act calls upon EPA to object to any proposed permit that is not in compliance with applicable requirements, including the requirements of a SIP. Accordingly, Title V permits which are issued with BAT, nuisance, and toxics policy terms and conditions that are misrepresented as State-only enforceable are subject to EPA objection.

It is our understanding that you intend to submit a SIP revision package requesting removal of the BAT requirements, thus making them State enforceable only. We ask that, prior to this resource intensive effort, you make all necessary assurances that this action will meet all of the planning requirements of the Act, including both specific and general requirements intended to assure the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and the prevention of significant deterioration of air quality. The BAT program appears to be integral to Ohio's plan for meeting many of these requirements. In addition, sections 110(1) and 193 of the Act are "antibacksliding" provisions that prohibit the approval of a SIP revision that would

interfere with any applicable requirement of the Act and, in the case of nonattainment areas, require that control requirements be replaced by measures of ensuring equal or greater emissions reductions. Thus, before we could approve the removal of the BAT program from the SIP, you must demonstrate that removal of BAT would not adversely affect the various statutory requirements that BAT addresses. This will also enable our review process to be done in a timely fashion. In addition, if you choose to make the nuisance regulation and toxics policy State enforceable only, we ask that this be included as part of your SIP revision package.

Please keep in mind that the removal of these provisions from the SIP will not affect the continuing Federal enforceability of existing PTIs. As noted above, either inclusion in the SIP or in a permit issued pursuant to a SIP-approved program renders a requirement federally enforceable. Here, the BAT requirements are contained in PTIs issued pursuant to Ohio's SIP-approved PTI program. Therefore, for sources with existing PTIs containing BAT, the BAT requirement still would have to be included on the federally enforceable side of the Title V permit. This is true also for nuisance and state toxics requirements contained in existing PTIs. We continue to have the authority to enforce BAT and the other provisions at these sources until appropriate regulatory steps are taken.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further, please call Genevieve Damico, of my staff, at (312) 353-4761.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Stephen Rothblatt, Chief  
Air Programs Branch



For further information, contact: [flowers.debra@epa.gov](mailto:flowers.debra@epa.gov)

This Information Last Modified On: 09/18/2008 04:03 PM