



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF
AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Guidance on SIP Development and New Source
Review in Areas Impacted by Fugitive Dust

FROM: Edward F. Tuerk, Acting Assistant Administrator
for Air & Waste Management

MEMO TO: Regional Administrators

Many of the July 1, 1976, calls for particulate matter SIP revisions identified fugitive dust as a significant contributor to the particulate matter problem within the urbanized areas throughout the nation. Additionally, recent studies have indicated that fugitive dust control should be considered as part of the overall control program for particulate matter if many urban areas are to attain and maintain the NAAQS.

The attached policy paper has undergone considerable review from both within and outside the Agency. Briefly, the policy recognizes the greater environmental impact due to violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) due to fugitive dust in urban versus rural areas. Consequently, for control strategy development, urban areas should receive the highest priority for the development of a comprehensive and reasonable program to control fugitive dust. Rural area control programs at this time should center on the control of large existing man-made fugitive dust sources (i.e., tailing piles, mining operations, etc.) which in themselves are presently causing violations of the NAAQS or are sources of a known toxic or hazardous material (e.g., asbestos). For the purposes of implementing the fugitive dust policy, rural areas are primarily determined by the following criteria: (1) the lack of major industrial development or absence of significant industrial particulate emissions, and (2) low urbanized population.

In addition, new sources that wish to construct in rural fugitive dust areas should be allowed to do so without the need of an emission offset, as long as they comply with the applicable emission regulation, and the impact of their emissions plus the emissions from other stationary sources in the vicinity of the proposed location, along with normal background, is not projected to cause violations of the NAAQS. Sources wishing to locate in urban non-attainment areas must obtain offsets and may do so by controlling fugitive dust sources.

The control of fugitive dust sources reflecting the application of reasonable available controls should be included with the SIP revisions now under development. It should be noted that since fugitive dust control programs will be relatively new to many State and local agencies, time will be required for coordination among various groups in order to implement an effective program in urban areas. Demonstration projects and special implementation studies may be needed, and efforts to support such programs are encouraged.

Enclosure

cc: Director, Air and Hazardous Materials Division, Region I, III-X
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