

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region V  
230 South Dearborn  
Chicago, IL 60604



**ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
MICHIGAN  
MINNESOTA  
OHIO  
WISCONSIN**

# HIGHLIGHTS **TOGETHER**



**OCTOBER 1, 1977 to DECEMBER 31, 1978**

# AIR

New Clean Air Act Amendments were passed by Congress in the late summer of 1977. The Amendments called for States to improve their plans for cleaning up air pollution, set up methods for keeping the air clean while allowing future growth, and addressed long-term problems of carbon monoxide and other auto-related pollutants.



In December 1978, all States in Region V were working hard to meet the January 1, 1979 deadline for submitting State Implementation Plans (SIPs). EPA will have until July 1, 1979 to evaluate them. A SIP is required for each of the five harmful pollutants we are trying to reduce or remove from the air entirely: Photochemical oxidants (smog), particulates (smoke, dust, fly ash), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Since all States have major urban areas where autos are the main source of air pollution, vehicle inspection and maintenance programs will also be required.



By the end of 1978, ninety-one percent of the 4,812 major air pollution sources in EPA's Region V were in compliance with Federally enforceable State clean air standards, or were on an approved compliance schedule. There were 294 major sources (industrial and municipal) in violation of State clean air regulations, and 117 sources for which no applicable regulations existed. Regulations to cover those gaps were being developed under the State Implementation Plan updates.

Percentages of air source compliance, State by State, were: Illinois 97 percent, Indiana 85 percent, Michigan 98 percent, Minnesota 89 percent, Ohio 83 percent, and Wisconsin 97 percent. During 1978, EPA issued 89 Notices of Violation and 27 Compliance Orders to industrial and municipal sources of air pollution.



During Fiscal Year 1978, almost \$12 million in continuing program awards was granted to various local and county air pollution control agencies within the six EPA Region V States. Illinois received \$3.2 million, Indiana \$1.6 million, Michigan \$2.2 million, Minnesota \$0.9 million, Ohio \$2.9 million, and Wisconsin \$1 million. For Fiscal Year 1979, under Section 105 of the 1977 Clean Air Act, \$15.7 million has been appropriated to Region V States in support of air pollution control agencies.



Sulfur dioxide pollution in Ohio, caused by burning of local high-sulfur coal, remained a problem. To comply with Federal and State clean air standards, some Ohio utilities chose to import low-sulfur coal from the Western States rather than install the effective but expensive sulfur dioxide control equipment, known as scrubbers. About 2,000 miners, fearing the loss of jobs, came to EPA hearings in St. Clairsville, Ohio, in August 1978 to express their concern.

Under Section 125 of the 1977 Clean Air Act, utilities may be required to use locally available high-sulfur coal (together with appropriate pollution controls) to reduce economic disruption that would result from the burning of out-of-State coal. In December 1978 EPA publicly announced that severe economic losses would result if Ohio utilities were to switch to out-of-State coal. A series of public hearings was scheduled in 1979 to determine if Section 125 should be invoked in Ohio.



The Indianapolis Power and Light Company (IPALCO) presented EPA with a plan to build a 1,950-megawatt coal-fired power plant near Patriot, Indiana. But in August 1978, EPA rejected the proposal. It said that IPALCO's new plant, to be located in the heavily polluted Ohio River Valley, would not be able to meet the Federal clean air standards. Specifically, EPA said the proposed pollution control equipment was inadequate to remove sulfur dioxide emissions.

This was the first time a power plant was banned in the Midwest because of air pollution problems. IPALCO filed for a temporary injunction against EPA, but the court denied it in October. The court further ordered an expedited briefing schedule, with oral arguments to be held in 1979, to review EPA's initial refusal of a construction permit.



Two major steel companies were sued by EPA for failure to clean up long-standing air pollution problems. In December 1978, the U.S. Attorney for Northern Indiana, at EPA's request, filed a suit against Bethlehem Steel Company's Burns Harbor, Indiana, mill and against U.S. Steel Corporation's Gary, Indiana, mill. Both companies were cited for excessive particulate emissions in violation of the Clean Air Act. In both cases, the suit asked for a court-imposed clean-up schedule and fines of \$25,000 per day for each day of noncompliance, retroactive to the August 7, 1977 passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments.

The American Brick Company, whose Dolton, Illinois, and Munster, Indiana, plants had been in violation of clean air standards for particulates since mid-1975, was also taken to court. Besides a court-imposed cleanup schedule, the suit asked for civil penalties of \$25,000 per day per plant, also retroactive to August 7, 1977.

## **WATER**

New Clean Water Act Amendments, signed into law in the fall of 1977, put emphasis on wastewater treatment, coordination of water programs, water plant operator training, public information and education on recycling of wastewater and sludge, and water reclamation projects for small rural communities that could benefit from cost-saving techniques. The Amendments also authorized, for the first time, grants for privately owned water treatment plants.

To better deal with these new priorities, EPA's Region V Water Division was reorganized in mid-1978. Environ-

mental Engineering and Water Quality Management branches were added to the existing three. And all construction grants programs were consolidated under a new post of Assistant Director for Construction Grants.



At the end of October 1978, of a total of 1,079 municipal and industrial dischargers 677, or 63 percent, were in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits or Extended Compliance Schedule Letter requirements. In the six-State EPA Region V, Minnesota had the highest percentage (91.5) of combined municipal and industrial dischargers in compliance, Illinois had the lowest (41 percent). Combined compliance in the other four States stood as follows: Indiana, 90 percent, Wisconsin, 70 percent, Ohio and Michigan, 57.5 percent each. In 1978, Region V enforcement personnel issued 77 Notices of Violation and 40 Administrative Orders to industrial and municipal water polluters.



EPA awarded \$1 billion in 1978 to help cities build or improve 1,411 sewage treatment plants. Illinois received \$270.3 million for 241 projects, Indiana received \$99.7 million for 151 projects, Michigan received \$44.6 million for 415 projects, Minnesota received \$34.3 million for 154 projects, Ohio received \$71.8 million for 225 projects, and Wisconsin received \$79.6 million for 225 projects.



Under the Water Quality Management (208) Program, \$10.6 million was allocated to EPA's Region V for Fiscal Year 1978. They are long-term grants, made to State and Regional agencies, for wastewater treatment and water quality studies. These grants are updated annually, and funds not awarded (as was the case with part of the \$10.6 million for 1978) are carried over into the next year.

Nineteen-seventy-eight was the due date for 32 local planning agencies in Region V to submit their plans for dealing with future water quality management in their areas. Emphasis of the program was on putting together locally enforceable management programs that deal with nonspecific source problems like farm runoff, city street runoff, construction and forest water wastes and the like. Involvement of local officials, citizens, and other affected parties was needed in putting together the program.

One special success story comes from Michigan, where the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a local 208 agency, was able to enlist wide community support. SEMCOG drew up a plan involving 128 communities and agencies, working together and using local money to improve water quality. For areas not covered by local planning agencies, State pollution agencies are assuming responsibility.



When the City of Detroit failed to clean up water pollution according to a compliance schedule it previously agreed to, EPA and the Department of Justice, together with the State of Michigan, filed a Show-Cause Order in October 1978.

The Request for Relief accompanying the order asked for immediate compliance, plus a schedule of fines, and the appointment of a monitor by the Federal Court. After thorough review of Detroit's long-standing pollution record, the monitor submitted evidence to the judge in December 1978. Hearings in open court were held in February 1979.

Detroit, the largest municipal discharger of sewage and phosphorus in the Great Lakes Basin, had originally been sued by EPA in May 1977 for violations of the Clean Water Act. A series of intense negotiations and compliance schedules failed to get Detroit to clean up its wastewater. As a result, a court-ordered Consent Judgment was signed by all parties in September 1977. It established schedules by which Detroit was to achieve compliance.



In January 1978, EPA filed a civil suit against the City of Gary, Indiana, and the Gary Sanitary District for numerous violations of the 1977 Clean Water Act. Violations included the discharge of five pollutants, inadequate operation and maintenance, and failure to file industrial user information. The suit, which could result in maximum penalties of \$10,000 for each day of violation, was still pending at the end of 1978.



The City of New Albany, Indiana, and a former superintendent of the city's wastewater treatment plant were taken to court by EPA in June 1978 for filing false reports under the 1977 Clean Water Act. The City pleaded no contest and was ordered to pay court costs; the superintendent pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,500.



After a series of chemical spills into the Ohio River and its tributaries in 1977 and 1978, EPA launched a drinking water organics management program. Its aim is to identify and reduce the amount of organic chemicals in our water supply. Some of the chemicals, such as carbon tetrachloride, are known to cause cancer; others are suspect. Under the supervision of the Ohio River Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), seven monitoring stations were set up. These experimental stations, partly funded by EPA, were to measure chemicals in the river and give early warning to communities whenever chemical spills occurred.

EPA also granted the Cincinnati Water Works \$1.2 million in June 1978 for a two-year experimental project that will utilize granular activated carbon for the treatment of water. This method will provide maximum protection to the city's drinking water from organic chemical contamination.

## **TOXICANTS**

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA was required to compile an inventory of chemical substances. The main purpose was not merely to list all the chemicals (some 70,000 used nationwide) but—more important—to identify the potentially dangerous ones and devise means to control them. EPA's Region V advised some 2,500 indus-

trial callers about chemical inventory reporting requirements, held inventory reporting seminars in six Midwestern cities, and distributed about 22,000 pamphlets to industry representatives. The inventory reporting period ended May 1, 1978. A complete list of inventoried chemicals is to be published in 1979.



A \$3 million Central Regional Laboratory, one of the best facilities of its type in the country, was opened in Chicago in February 1978. Well prepared to fight dangerous toxic substances, the laboratory has broad capabilities to make physical, chemical, and biological analyses—from simple to complex. Samples are taken from the air, water, or solid matter to evaluate the presence and the amount of pollutants in our cities, industrial plants, farms, lakes, streams, and other sources.

Sophisticated computerized equipment was installed to lend EPA technicians a hand. The new laboratory is an important part in a joint toxics control effort undertaken by the EPA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration.



A national survey released by EPA in November 1978 revealed that there may be as many as 1,800 hazardous waste dump sites in the Midwest. Of these, 22 considered most serious were identified. EPA's Region V formed a special agency task force to work with State agencies in investigating these sites. Although EPA does not have the authority or the resources to deal with hazardous waste dumps, it can act in an emergency, whenever a grave danger to public health is known to exist.



Two toxic chemicals continued to present serious disposal problems: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs). PCBs were the center of attention in a civil suit EPA filed in March 1978 against the Outboard Marine Corporation. Its Johnson Outboard Division, according to the suit, dumped over the past 18 years about two million pounds of PCBs into Lake Michigan and Waukegan harbor, Illinois. In some places sediments were found to contain as much as 25 percent of PCBs.

The suit asked Outboard Marine to remove sediments from the harbor without any further damage to the environment and pay penalties that may total \$20 million. At the end of 1978, the case was still unresolved.



PCBs from Missouri and industrial wastes from Michigan were buried in Wilsonville, Illinois, to the consternation of local residents. EPA declared the site safe, but Wilsonville citizens sued in protest. The dump site has been closed by court order since September 1978. The court also ruled that wastes do not have to be removed.



In May 1978 two experts from EPA's Region V inspected a site in Mio, Michigan, where more than 1,000 PBB-conta-

minated cows were to be destroyed and buried. After evaluating the design, construction, and intended use of the site, the EPA team concluded there would be no health hazard to people. It also testified to this effect in court. Still, the Michigan Supreme Court temporarily prohibited any cattle from being buried at the site. In July, however, the court ruled that the Mio burial site could be used after all.

This was a second instance of continuing tragedy that began in 1973, when PBBs (used as a fire retardant) were accidentally mixed with animal feed. At that time PBBs killed millions of Michigan farm animals. Between 1974 and 1976 another 35,000 PBB-contaminated dairy cows had to be destroyed.



The Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation waste disposal site in Montague, Michigan, failed to meet standards for hazardous waste disposal. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), backed by EPA, turned down the company's plan to cover the wastes with soil and synthetic liners. Such wastes must be placed in vaults that are insulated on all sides by ten feet of clay. MDNR and EPA ruled in the fall of 1978.



By the end of 1978, pesticide applicator certification programs of all six Region V States had been approved by EPA. State plans had to meet the new requirements on restricted-use pesticides, as outlined by the amended Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under State plans, a total of 189,400 pesticide applicators were certified. Of these, 162,000 were farmers and 27,400 were commercial concerns. To help the States' certification programs, EPA granted about \$54,000 to each of the Region V States. Regulations are being revised to make annual grants possible.



The Inspection and Surveillance Section inspected 189 pesticide producers, made 20 import investigations, and collected 408 samples for chemical analysis from 172 marketplace inspections. The above field functions, however, were in the process of being transferred to the States under the Cooperative Enforcement Agreements. At the end of 1978, three States (Michigan, Indiana, and Minnesota) had such agreements in force. The other three States (Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio) are expected to sign by 1980. For them, 1979 will be a phase-in year.

The Pesticide Compliance Section made 186 pesticide-use inspections, issued 112 warning letters, initiated 41 civil prosecutions, sent out 20 recall requests, and 39 stop-sale orders.

## **RADIATION**

The Radiation Program office maintains eight sampling stations for monitoring airborne radioactive materials throughout EPA's Region V. Six of these stations are on continuous standby and are activated when there is a danger of radioactive fallout. During 1978 they were acti-

vated twice as a result of nuclear weapons testing in China. However, no dangerous fallout was detected.

Studies of radiation emissions from non-nuclear facilities are being made to determine the 50-year radiation dose to the general public from naturally occurring radioactive material. The studies involve a coal-fired electrical generating station and a limestone mine in Illinois. Data from these, and similar studies in other EPA Regions will be used to establish radiation emission standards for non-nuclear facilities, as required by the 1977 Clean Air Act.

## **noise**

At the request of the mayor of Galena, Illinois, Noise Program specialists of EPA's Region V helped develop a comprehensive antinoise ordinance for that city. The ordinance, aimed at reducing auto horn blowing, engine revving, heavy acceleration (racing), and tire squeal, was adopted by Galena in October 1977. The new ordinance also required that all vehicles registered in Galena be tested for noise emissions by June 1, 1978. Part of the program was a new antinoise street sign developed by EPA's Region V staff.

Galena's and EPA's efforts to control noise gained nationwide attention during a CBS-TV network newscast in July 1978. Following Galena's example, communities across the nation began adopting the antinoise sign and similar noise control programs. A series of noise workshops was also conducted throughout EPA's Region V to acquaint public officials with noise control and practical antinoise enforcement methods.

## **GREAT LAKES**

In December 1977, EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) became operational, with headquarters in Chicago. GLNPO's main function is to conduct surveillance and coordinate research and special studies in the eight Great Lakes States. GLNPO also provides technical support and remedial programs for EPA's nonstop fight against all forms of pollution in the Lakes, the largest freshwater system in the world.

GLNPO coordinates its efforts and cooperates with other Federal agencies, with State and local governments, and with university research programs. GLNPO also works closely with these counterparts in Canada, which shares the boundaries of and concern for the Great Lakes.



Preliminary results of a GLNPO study of Lake Michigan were released in June 1978. The study showed that overall pollution in Lake Michigan has decreased somewhat, but most inshore areas (Green Bay, for example) are still contaminated with too many nutrients that can eventually choke off the Lake. One happy exception is the Indiana shoreline, where phosphorus concentrations have decreased significantly, probably as a result of Indiana's 1973 ban of high-phosphate household detergents.



The preliminary findings also showed that the levels of chlbrides (salt) is rising at twice the rate of previous years. The final report of GLNPO's Lake Michigan study is expected to be published August 1, 1979



In July 1978, EPA held a series of shipboard open houses to introduce the public and the press to its new research vessel, the *Crockett*. The ship, a converted 165-foot Navy gunboat, is conducting an intensive two-year program to sample deep and near-shore waters of Lake Erie, in order to chart cleanup progress and continuing pollution problems.

From Lake Erie, the fully equipped floating laboratory will move to the other Great Lakes to continue GLNPO's ten-year monitoring program, which is part of an ongoing international study. The *Crockett* is often seen working alongside the *Roger R. Simons*, a Coast Guard buoy tender also converted for scientific study of the Great Lakes.



The joint U.S. - Canadian Water Quality Agreement of 1978, signed in November, called for continued efforts to restore and maintain water quality of the Great Lakes. GLNPO is responsible for implementing this binational treaty, which has historic precedence dating from 1909. The new Agreement emphasizes the need to control pollution in tributary waters and other nonpoint sources, including pollutants reaching the Lakes with agricultural runoff or by air. The Agreement warned that an increasing amount of all pollution entering the Lakes has been found to come from atmospheric sources.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

In Federal Court, The Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) defended 44 new cases seeking to overturn actions taken by EPA's Region V. This did not include 41 cases already pending. Some of the more important Federal Court Decisions upheld EPA's right to obtain a search warrant to investigate suspected violations of pesticide laws, affirmed EPA's right to disapprove State water quality standards that do not meet requirements of the Clean Water Act, and approved EPA's order to a Michigan city (which received EPA funds to construct a sewage treatment plant) to award an equipment and construction contract in accordance with provisions of Federal law.

ORC also prepared 29 formal opinions—the most of any EPA Region—resolving bid protest appeals, and provided more than 400 formal and informal opinions interpreting various laws and regulations.



EPA's Region V Library held a week-long fair in April 1978, during which hundreds of pounds of surplus publications were given away to local, State, and out-of-State environmental libraries, and the public at large. Some people came from as far away as Cleveland. The publications consisted of EPA reports, journals, U.S. Geological Survey Water Resource Data, and other miscellaneous literature. The

Library Fair was so successful that two other EPA regions held similar fairs later, with equally outstanding results. The Library hopes to make this fair an annual event.



A conference on Lake Michigan pollution problems and a fair were held in Chicago in June 1978. Officials from the four Lake Michigan States attended sessions during which pollution compliance, industry reports, Lake erosion and diversion, beaches, fisheries, and jobs were discussed. The fair also included Chicago Fire Department and Coast Guard demonstrations, fishing and canoeing clinics, a sandcastle building contest for children, and numerous exhibits emphasizing the Lake as a community resource.



EPA was recognized in 1978 as the top Federal agency in Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB), an efficient way of managing Federal tax dollars. Region V was further recognized as the best EPA region in managing its \$21 million budget under the new ZBB process.

With ZBB, program budgets are re-evaluated every year, rather than automatically renewed or increased. Savings often result. For example, ZBB analysis showed that Region V could effectively monitor pesticide use on farms with only 60 percent of funds previously allocated.



To avoid environmental problems from the outset, environmental agencies and the U S Steel Corporation began looking at potential impacts from the planned construction of a \$3.5 billion fully integrated steel plant east of Conneaut, Ohio. The 4,000-acre site on the shores of Lake Erie, straddling the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, is the costliest construction project ever undertaken by a U S corporation.

EPA raised serious objections to an initial Environmental Impact Statement prepared on the project by the Corps of Engineers. It was especially concerned about prevention of air quality deterioration. At the end of 1978, The Corps and U S Steel were attempting to solve those problems.

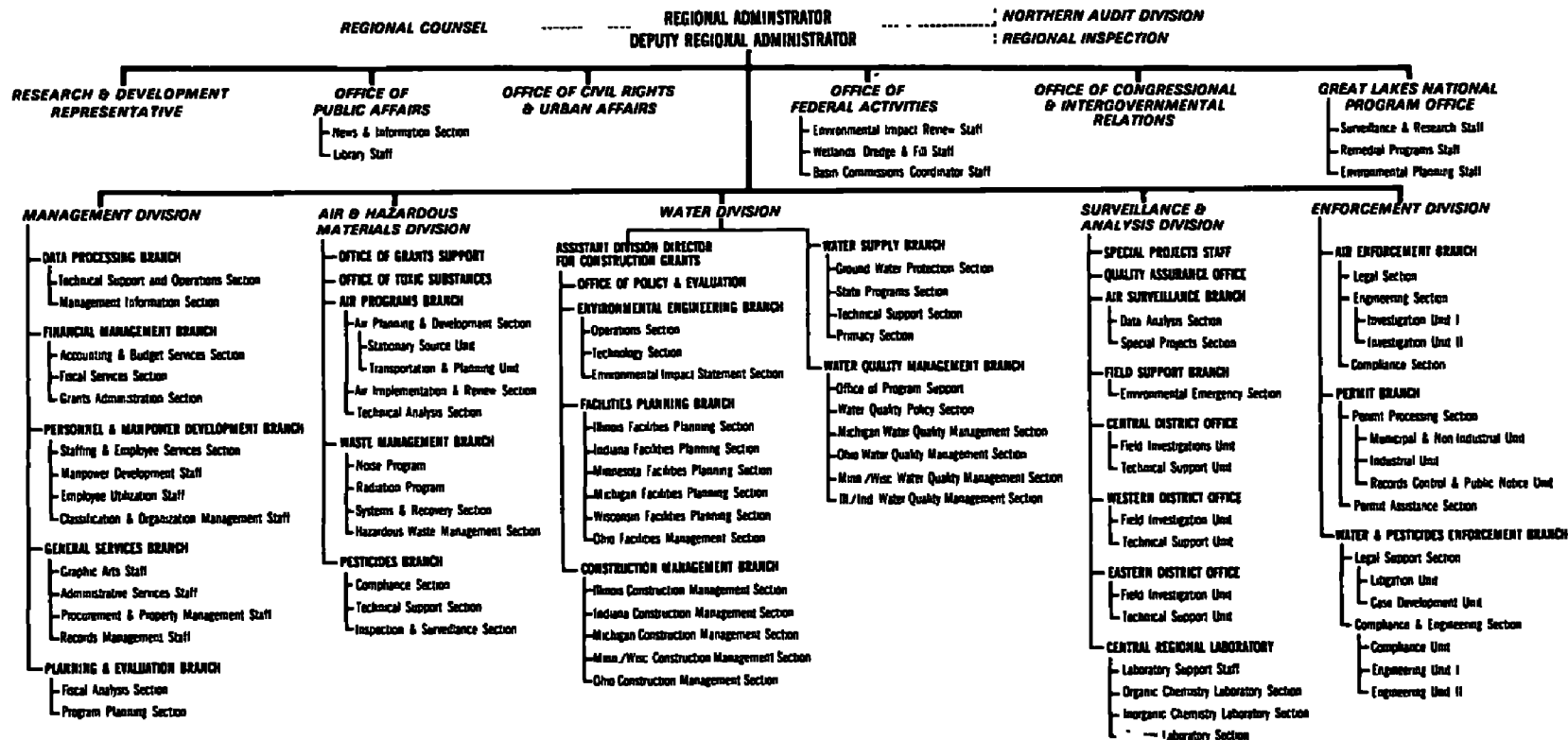


The Office of Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (OCRUA) developed a Regional Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Plan, which was approved by the Regional Administrator in November 1978. OCRUA also worked to implement a policy of increased use of minority consultants and construction contractors. Invitations for bids, requests for proposals issued by grantees, and procurement of subagreements will fall under this policy.



In November 1977, EPA issued Orders of Compliance to seven Federal facilities and Notices of Violation to 12 others. The seven facilities, all major dischargers into EPA's Region V waterways, were cited for violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The other 12 were cited for violation of the 1977 Clean Air Act. Among the violators were military installations, Department of Defense supply centers, and other Federal facilities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

# U.S. EPA REGION V ORGANIZATION CHART



January 8, 1979



Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300 00

Postage and  
Fees Paid  
Environmental  
Protection  
Agency  
EPA-335



Office of Public Affairs  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(312)353-2072