



FACTS ON

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION FIVE
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Program Support Branch

Program Support, a branch of the Air and Water Programs Division, consists of three sections designed to more effectively administer the needs of the various State and local governments within the six-state region.

They are the Air Program Development Section, the Air Technology Section, and the Water Supply Section.

The Program Support Branch was expanded in the 1972 fiscal year from 14 to 41 people. This total is expected to continue to grow to meet an ever expanding need for cleaner air and purer water.

Air Programs Development Section

Administrative and engineering planning is considered the most important of the responsibilities of the Air Programs Development Section.

The planning is primarily directed toward the development and maintenance of comprehensive state and local air pollution control agencies.

Within the scope of the section's planning activities are program grant funding, development and enforcement of state implementation plans, and continuing evaluations.

Funds are granted to the programs of those agencies which meet the criteria set forth under Section 105 of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and which abide by the guidelines established in the Federal Register.

Also included under the section's planning activities are the development and enforcement of state implementation plans as called for under Section 110 of the Clean Air Act.

The plans represent a comprehensive planning effort to gear the overall state efforts toward meeting the Federally promulgated national ambient air standards for sulfur oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, photochemical oxidants, nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons.

Included within these plans are specific control strategies backed by appropriate rules and regulations, emergency episode plans, air monitoring programs, and engineering and enforcement activities to get the job done within a preset time schedule.

Finally, under planning, the section is responsible for continuing evaluations aimed at the overall review of the various state and local programs. The result of the review is a report containing recommendations for the prompt correction of any deficiencies found to exist.

A second major responsibility of this section is the coordination of Federal, State and local Agency interactions.

This includes the coordination and organization of technical assistance to state and local air pollution control programs, not only within the Regional Office, but from technical centers in Rockville, Md.; Washington, D.C.; and Raleigh-Durham-Research Triangle Park, N.C.

It also includes the coordination of assistance and recommendations concerning personnel hiring by the various agencies through the Federal state assignee program as well as assistance in the proper training of personnel through EPA courses.

And, finally, the section is responsible for the coordination of technical and legal assistance regarding such areas as equipment purchasing and placement, source surveys and emission inventories.

Air Technology Section

The Air Technology Section has two primary functions. First, it is responsible for providing the expertise concerning air pollution which is required to fulfill the technical engineering request of the various air pollution control agencies.

Its second major function is to bolster the capabilities of the regional office through participation in activities ranging from backup technical assistance directly related to agency funding, to direct involvement in onsite inspections.

In order to facilitate the accomplishment of its primary obligations the section has been divided into five groups. They are the Air Monitoring Group, the Agency Operations Group, and the Source Control Group, as well as a group involved in legal advice and representation and a group which collects meteorology and climatology data for the Regional Office.

The Air Monitoring Group reviews equipment requests and recommends and approves air quality surveillance networks, including the lending of certain Federal air sampling equipment to various agencies. In addition, the group is responsible for procedures for air monitoring instrument calibration and stationary source tests, including tests for hazardous air pollutants.

The Agency Operations Group is charged with the following: stationary source; new source performance standards; highway traffic and aircraft emissions; environmental impact statements; automotive emission control and inspection procedures; manpower analyses; emergency episode coordination; data collection and processing; and source testing.

Tax certification procedures; stationary source control technology; and foundry, incinerator, and coke oven emission controls are all within the scope of the Source Control Group.

A fourth group included in the Air Technology Section works directly with the Regional Enforcement Division on problems involving legal interpretations concerning air pollution control agency authority and enforcement procedures.

The fifth group has direct Regional Office coordinating responsibility for air pollution emergency episodes in the six states included in Region V.