Fact Sheet
Proposal to Include Delaware and New Jersey in the Clean Air Interstate Rule for Fine Particles

On March 10, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to include Delaware and New Jersey in the Clean Air Interstate Rule for fine particles (PM2.5).

- In the final CAIR, EPA found that sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from 23 states and the District of Columbia contribute to unhealthy levels of fine particles in downwind states. In addition, NOx emissions in 25 eastern states and the District of Columbia contribute to unhealthy levels of 8-hour ozone in other downwind states. Delaware and New Jersey are subject to ozone-related requirements in the CAIR to reduce NOx emissions during the summer ozone season. (See affected states below.)

- Today's proposed action calls for adding Delaware and New Jersey to the region covered by the CAIR for fine particles. On a per square mile basis, each of these states emit nearly as much pollution as their neighboring states and they are in close proximity to neighboring states' nonattainment areas. EPA believes that emissions from these states are significant and warrant inclusion in the CAIR for fine particles. EPA believes that the combined emissions from Delaware and New Jersey significantly affect neighboring states and proposes that Delaware and New Jersey meet the annual CAIR requirements for annual SO2 and NOx.

- EPA will take comment on today's proposal and expects to take final action in late 2005 in order to keep all of the states' requirements under CAIR on the same schedule.

- Assuming that the two States choose to achieve the required emissions reductions by imposing control requirements on electrical generating units under the EPA-administered allowance trading programs, this proposal would increase the direct costs of the CAIR program by $30 million per year in 2010 and $40 million per year in 2015. These costs represent less than 2 percent of the costs of the CAIR. These costs were assumed to be incurred in all of the regulatory impact analyses for the final CAIR.

Backgound

In a separate but related action, also signed on March 10, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), a rule that will achieve the largest reduction in air pollution in more than a decade. This action, called the "Interstate Air Quality Rule" when it was proposed in January 2004, offers steep and sustained reductions in air pollution as well as dramatic health benefits at more than 25 times greater than the cost by 2015.

- Through the use of the proven cap and trade approach, CAIR achieves substantial reductions of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions and is a powerful component of the Administration's plan to help over 450 counties in the eastern U.S. meet EPA's protective

air quality standards for ozone or fine particles.

- SO_2 and NO_x contribute to the formation of fine particles and NOx contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone. Fine particles and ozone are associated with thousands of premature deaths and illnesses each year. Additionally, these pollutants reduce visibility and damage sensitive ecosystems.

- Based on an assessment of the emissions contributing to interstate transport of air pollution and available control measures, EPA has determined that achieving required reductions in the identified states by controlling emissions from power plants is highly cost effective.

- States must achieve the required emission reductions using one of two compliance options: 1) meet the state's emission budget by requiring power plants to participate in an EPA-administered interstate cap and trade system that caps emissions in two stages, or 2) meet an individual state emissions budget through measures of the state's choosing.

- CAIR provides a Federal framework requiring states to reduce emissions of SO2 and NOx. EPA anticipates that states will achieve this primarily by reducing emissions from the power generation sector. These reductions will be substantial and cost-effective, so in many areas, the reductions are large enough to meet the air quality standards. The Clean Air Act requires that states meet the new national, health-based air quality standards for ozone and PM2.5 standards by requiring reductions from many types of sources. Some areas may need to take additional local actions. CAIR reductions will lessen the need for additional local controls.

- This final rule provides cleaner air while allowing for continued economic growth. By enabling states to address air pollutants from power plants in a cost effective fashion, this rule will protect public health and the environment without interfering with the steady flow of affordable energy for American consumers and businesses.

Coverage of the Clean Air Interstate Rule

States listed are required to control for both fine particle pollution and ozone transport unless otherwise noted

Alabama
Arkansas (ozone only)
Connecticut (ozone only)
Florida
Delaware (ozone only)
Georgia (fine particle pollution only)
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maryland
Massachusetts (ozone only)
Michigan
Minnesota (fine particle pollution only)
Mississippi

Missouri
New York
New Jersey (ozone only)
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas (fine particle pollution only)
Virginia
West Virginia
Wisconsin
District of Columbia

For More Information

For information on the Clean Air Interstate Rule, visit www.epa.gov/cair