

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Honorable John Rowland  
Governor  
State of Connecticut  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rowland:

I am pleased to inform you that today we are taking the next step to move forward with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) far-reaching approach to protect the health of over a hundred million Americans living in the eastern United States from harmful levels of air pollution. This action should significantly reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants and other large industrial facilities. Not only do those emissions threaten public health in nearby areas, they also threaten communities hundreds of miles away. Reducing these emissions will prevent thousands of smog-related illnesses each year, including aggravated cases of childhood asthma. This plan can be achieved through cost-effective, readily achievable reductions.

After EPA issued the NOx SIP Call in September 1998 to reduce smog across the eastern United States, several parties challenged us in court. Last May, as an interim measure, the Court stayed the requirement that States submit their plans to address transported smog. On March 3, 2000, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued a decision largely upholding the NOx SIP Call.

In light of the public health benefits at stake and the March 3, 2000 court decision upholding the NOx SIP Call, we intend to move forward expeditiously in implementing the regional strategy to reduce smog. Although the Court remanded a few narrow issues to the Agency for further action, the part of the program left intact covers over 90% of the emission reductions required by the NOx SIP Call in those states where it still applies.

The EPA and Department of Justice have been working closely together to take action in response to the Court's decision. For your information, today we are filing a motion with the Court asking it to lift its stay of the date for states to submit revised air pollution control plans in response to the NOx SIP Call. If the Court grants our request, the states still subject to the NOx SIP Call will need to submit control plans by September 1, 2000 for those portions of the NOx SIP Call upheld by the Court. Your state has already voluntarily submitted a plan to comply with the NOx SIP Call, which will comply with this SIP submission requirement. I commend your leadership in addressing regional and local smog problems.

In addition, EPA will conduct an expeditious rulemaking on those few issues remanded by the Court. After that rulemaking, you will have an opportunity to supplement your control plan as appropriate. Under a separate cover, your Environmental Commissioner will receive additional details and information about how we calculated the amount of NOx each state will need to reduce.

It is important that we move forward with plans to reduce smog levels by May 1, 2003. When some states asked the Court to stay the rule, they stated that it would not delay achieving cleaner air by May 2003. Our technical analysis supports that realizing these NOx reductions by 2003 is feasible without endangering the reliability of the electric power supply. The NOx SIP Call also includes a compliance supplement pool that allows states to provide significant flexibility to avoid reliability problems. Over 40% of the power plants that states could choose to regulate under the NOx SIP Call are already required to reduce NOx emissions as a result of EPA's recent action on petitions submitted by Connecticut and three other northeast states to reduce pollution from upwind sources. Our goal is to provide a coordinated approach that satisfies both the NOx SIP Call and EPA's action on the state petitions.

I believe it is essential to move forward as quickly as possible to achieve the public health benefits from this ground-breaking strategy. My staff will continue to be available to assist your staff as necessary on this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Browner

cc: Arthur J. Rocque, Jr  
Richard Blumenthal

Honorable Argeo Paul Cellucci  
Governor  
State of Massachusetts  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Cellucci:

I am pleased to inform you that today we are taking the next step to move forward with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) far-reaching approach to protect the health of over a hundred million Americans living in the eastern United States from harmful levels of air pollution. This action should significantly reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants and other large industrial facilities. Not only do those emissions threaten public health in nearby areas, they also threaten communities hundreds of miles away. Reducing these emissions will prevent thousands of smog-related illnesses each year, including aggravated cases of childhood asthma. This plan can be achieved through cost-effective, readily achievable reductions.

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Sincerely,

Carol M. Browner

cc: Robert Durand  
Thomas F. Reilly

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
Governor  
State of New Jersey  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Whitman:

I am pleased to inform you that today we are taking the next step to move forward with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) far-reaching approach to protect the health of over a hundred million Americans living in the eastern United States from harmful levels of air pollution. This action should significantly reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants and other large industrial facilities. Not only do those emissions threaten public health in nearby areas, they also threaten communities hundreds of miles away. Reducing these emissions will prevent thousands of smog-related illnesses each year, including aggravated cases of childhood asthma. This plan can be achieved through cost-effective, readily achievable reductions.

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Sincerely,

Carol M. Browner

cc: Robert C. Shinn, Jr.  
John J. Farmer, Jr.

Honorable Lincoln Almond  
Governor  
State of Rhode Island  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Almond:

I am pleased to inform you that today we are taking the next step to move forward with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) far-reaching approach to protect the health of over a hundred million Americans living in the eastern United States from harmful levels of air pollution. This action should significantly reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants and other large industrial facilities. Not only do those emissions threaten public health in nearby areas, they also threaten communities hundreds of miles away. Reducing these emissions will prevent thousands of smog-related illnesses each year, including aggravated cases of childhood asthma. This plan can be achieved through cost-effective, readily achievable reductions.

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Carol M. Browner

cc: Jan H. Reitsma  
Sheldon Whitehouse