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## EPA IMPOSES TOUGHER STANDARDS ON SMOG

In a long-awaited announcement, the Environmental Protection Agency said last week it will implement a new, lower threshold for ozone pollution of 65 to 70 parts per billion, but left open the possibility it could enact an even lower standard of 60 parts per billion sought by environmental groups. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, put in place by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Meeting the stricter rules will cost industry about \$3.9 billion in 2025 if the government goes with a standard of 70 parts per billion, the EPA estimated. At a level of 65 parts per billion, the EPA said, the cost grows to \$15 billion. But industry groups said the cost would actually be far higher and that it would be nearly impossible for refineries and other businesses to comply.

Pushing back on those claims, EPA administrator Gina McCarthy said lower ozone standards would actually spur more businesses, investment and jobs by making communities healthier.

Business groups like the National Association of Manufacturers painted the government's move as a roadblock that threatens to jeopardize manufacturing's comeback. They accused the administration of moving the goalposts, since the states are still working to implement the previous standard put in place in 2008.

(by Dina Cappiello and Josh Lederman,  
Associated Press, Philadelphia Inquirer -  
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DIRECTORY

Corporate Headquarters  
215 West Church Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Phone: (610) 265-1510 / FAX: (610) 265-0687

New Jersey  
Pureland Complex, Suite 306  
510 Heron Drive, P.O. Box 521  
Bridgeport, NJ 08014  
Phone: (856) 467-2276 / FAX: (856) 467-3476

Southwest Pennsylvania  
591 East Maiden Street  
Washington, PA 15301  
Phone: (724) 206-0348 / FAX: (724) 206-0380

E-mail: [RTENV@AOL.COM](mailto:RTENV@AOL.COM)  
World Wide Web: [HTTP://RTENV.COM](http://RTENV.COM)  
24 HOUR URGENT LINE SERVICE 800-725-0593

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