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## EPA IS PROPOSING TO CUT AIR POLLUTION ACROSS STATE LINES

EPA is proposing updates to the Federal Cross-State Air Pollution Rule to address interstate air quality impacts for the 2008 Ozone Air Quality Standards. The proposal would reduce summertime emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) from power plant that contribute to downwind ozone problems in the Eastern half of the United States. The Clean Air Act's "Good Neighbor" provision requires states, or as a backstop, EPA - to address interstate transport of air pollution that affects the ability of downwind states to attain and maintain Clean Air Standards. EPA deals with the provision under state and federal implementation plans if a state fails to submit an approval plan.

EPA's recent proposal provides the Federal Implementation Plan that would apply if EPA's backstop obligation is triggered. States may choose to have their emissions controlled by the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) rather than developing their own plan. The proposed updates identify cuts in power plant NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in 23 states in the Eastern half of the Country that contribute significantly to downwind Ozone air quality problems and can be achieved by using existing, proven and cost-effective control technologies. The proposed cuts in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions would lead to significant improvements in air quality by the 2017 Ozone season. EPA is also proposing to adopt Federal Implementation Plans for each of the 23 states in the event that the state does not submit an approvable state implementation plan.

The Rule could reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from power plants in the Eastern portion of the United State by 850,000 tons in 2017. The overall reduction from this Rule and other changes already in effect would reduce emissions by 150,000 tons lower in 2017 as compared to 2014, a reduction of 30%.

(Environmental Tip of the Week - 11-25-2015)



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