

June 18, 2007

Administrator Stephen L. Johnson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA West (Air Docket), Mail Code: 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0163

Re: Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Prevention of Significant
Deterioration and Non-attainment New Source Review: Emission Increases for
Electric Generating Units

Request for extension of the Public Comment Period

Dear Administrator Johnson:

NESCAUM, the regional association of air pollution control agencies representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the public comment period for the submittal of written comments to the rulemaking docket referenced above by at least sixty days in order to assure meaningful public participation in the rulemaking process.

Over the last decade, NESCAUM and its member states have participated with EPA and other stakeholders in the Agency's New Source Review (NSR) reform efforts. Unfortunately, as we have communicated to EPA through numerous forums, the NESCAUM members continue to have serious concerns with EPA's latest amendments to this proposed rule. We continue in our belief that many aspects of this proposed rule could lead to adverse air quality impacts and could impede the efforts of the NESCAUM states to achieve and maintain clean air.

Because this proposed rule is so complex and lengthy, with numerous interacting regulatory options and provisions, it is evident that thoughtful consideration of the issues cannot be done without having the appropriate time to identify, research, and analyze relevant data. This is particularly critical in this case given that these provisions involve options between classical approaches to regulation (e.g., input-based tests) and novel approaches to regulation (e.g., output-based tests) with each of these options further divided into either "one-in-5-year baseline" options or "statistical approach" options. The EPA has also included with this proposed rule a set of complex analyses of the potential impact of the rule on the operation of the national electric utility system performed with the Integrated Planning Model (IPM). A meaningful review of the IPM "NSR availability" scenarios performed by EPA in support of this proposed rule will alone require a considerable amount of time and effort. NESCAUM states have

contacted EPA to obtain relevant data to conduct this analysis but to date have had difficulty identifying the data inputs used to support EPA's conclusions. Accordingly, we urge EPA to extend the comment period by at least sixty days to allow state officials appropriate time to develop informed comments for EPA's supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPR) for Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Non-attainment New Source Review: Emission Increases for Electric Generating Units.

We appreciate your serious and thoughtful attention to our request. If you have any questions, please contact either Lisa Rector or myself at (617)-259-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur N. Marin".

Arthur N. Marin
Executive Director

Cc: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Desk Officer for EPA