

RESOLUTION OF THE STATES OF THE OZONE TRANSPORT COMMISSION CALLING UPON THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO WORK WITH THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION AND STATES TO MITIGATE THE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS OF ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY COMPETITION

WHEREAS the States of the OTC need both electric utility competition and a clean environment; and

WHEREAS the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is currently encouraging increased competition in energy markets through a restructuring of the electric utility industry, including a draft open access rule for transmission lines; and

WHEREAS while economic competition and its resulting benefits are important to states, equity with respect to environmental impacts is important as well; and

WHEREAS electric generating stations within the States of the Ozone Transport Region have already made substantial investments to reduce ozone precursor emissions, while many upwind generating stations have not; and

WHEREAS continued reductions of ozone precursor emissions are essential to improving ozone air quality; and

WHEREAS electric generating stations provide a substantial portion of the overall nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions in the eastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of electric utility inter-regional competition promise to be shared nationally, but the NO_x emissions and ozone transported from the upwind regions will disproportionately impact the Ozone Transport Region; and

WHEREAS the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (OTAG) has been set up to deal with the interregional transport of ozone and its precursors in the eastern United States;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the OTC calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to work with FERC and the States, including OTAG, to ensure equitable environmental requirements within the OTAG region and to mitigate comprehensively and concurrently any adverse impacts on ground level ozone associated with the implementation of the open access rule, and related actions.

Adopted February 13, 1996