



**OZONE
TRANSPORT
COMMISSION**

Statement from The Ozone Transport Commission Requesting the Use and Operation of Existing Control Devices Installed at Electric Generating Units

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC), a multi-state organization created under the Clean Air Act (CAA), is required to advise the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on practical and cost effective solutions to the environmental and public health problem of ground-level ozone transport that negatively impacts the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Vermont

Virginia

The OTC recognizes the CAA has driven the wide spread installation of air pollution controls on Electric Generating Units (EGUs). The installation and operation of these pollution controls has led to a reduction in emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), a precursor pollutant to ground level ozone, and resulted in numerous health benefits and reduction of ozone.

However, OTC's evaluation of recent continuous emissions monitoring data shows that some EGUs equipped with NO_x emission controls are recently emitting NO_x at rates equal to amounts prior to the installation of controls. Based on this evaluation, some EGU's are either not operating or are limiting operation of their existing air pollution control devices, electing instead to achieve compliance with federal regulatory requirements through the purchase of Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) allowances. While lawful under CAIR, this practice (Emission Control Shut-Down) leads to increased NO_x emissions, negative health effects and high ozone levels throughout the OTR. During the 2012 ozone season, areas previously measuring clean data for the 1997 0.08 ppm standard recorded ozone values above that old health standard, as well as even higher ozone levels compared to the 2008 ozone standard of 0.075 ppm. Failure to operate emissions controls on large EGUs may partially explain this increase in measured ozone levels.

Additionally, the members of the OTC desire that owners and operators of EGUs within and outside the OTR operate their installed emission controls at optimal levels to reduce ozone season emissions and lessen human health impacts. The OTC requests that EPA and upwind states recognize the negative air quality and public health impacts associated with not operating installed NO_x controls.

Therefore, to promote clean electric generation, the OTC states agree to consider necessary and appropriate strategies to maximize the continuous operation of existing air pollution control equipment at EGUs so that NO_x emissions are controlled during the ozone season so long as this does not induce dirtier plants to operate.

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