

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, July 30, 2001

For additional information, contact:  
Bruce S. Carhart  
(202) 508-3840

### **OTC ADVOCATES AIR POLLUTION REDUCTIONS FROM AIRPORT AND CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES**

(Washington, DC) The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) today announced two major agreements recently concluded at its Annual Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. Both relate to efforts by OTC and its states to develop new ways of reducing emissions of pollutants that cause ground level ozone, as well as other air pollutants. The first agreement addresses airports, a growing source of air pollution emissions in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.

“The agreements we’ve completed today provide an important foundation for our future work,” said Jane Nishida, OTC Chair and Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, at the Annual Meeting. “With respect to airports, emissions are increasing, while other sources of emissions are decreasing. It is time that the parties involved determine ways to deal with this problem, and OTC’s agreement clearly outlines what is needed.”

Over the last several years, there have been ongoing discussions among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Aviation Administration, and other stakeholder groups to address the issue of airport emissions. The text of OTC’s agreement, which was released today, contains principles that address individual elements of an overall approach to aircraft, ground service equipment, and other aspects of airport operation. If airport emissions are not adequately addressed, they could affect states’ ability to submit adequate air quality plans to EPA.

The second agreement relates to energy efficiency and clean energy production and use. “Air quality and energy reliability are very compatible,” said Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., incoming Chair of OTC for the next year, and Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. “We want to work with our state and federal energy colleagues to create innovative solutions that support both goals simultaneously.”

OTC is investigating a number of energy efficiency and other clean energy approaches that are intended to help OTC States attain and maintain health-based air quality standards. Such programs will help not only help reduce emissions that cause ground-level ozone, but will also help reduce acid and

nutrient deposition, and emissions of other pollutants, as well as promote energy reliability. In a related action in March 2001, OTC approved an initiative that encourages incentives for cleaner generation of distributed electric power.

The text of the new energy agreement was also released today. Both new agreements can be found on OTC's website at [www.sso.org/otc](http://www.sso.org/otc).

Ground-level ozone, the main ingredient in smog, forms during warm weather when pollution from vehicles, power plants, industry, and households "bakes" in the hot sun. Those who may be particularly at risk when ozone levels are high include children, people of all ages working or exercising outdoors, and anyone with respiratory disease or prone to respiratory infections. As ozone levels increase, the severity of health effects also increases. Symptoms may include coughing, rapid or painful breathing, nose or throat irritation, and asthma and allergy attacks.

OTC was created by Congress through the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to coordinate ground-level ozone control planning in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia are represented on OTC.