

**NEW REPORT DOCUMENTS NORTHEAST
AND MID-ATLANTIC STATE PROGRESS ON STRATEGIES TO REDUCE SMOG**

(Tuesday, September 15, 1998, Washington, DC)--The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States have done more to clean up ground-level ozone, the main constituent in smog, than any other area outside of California, says a new report issued by the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC). In addition, these measures have generally been implemented statewide, rather than just in individual metropolitan areas.

The report, *Pollution Control Strategies in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States to Clean Up Ground Level Ozone: Progress to Date and a Look Towards the Future*, was issued in anticipation of final action by EPA on a program that would reduce emissions of a major smog contributor, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), across the eastern half of the United States. EPA's program, which reaches beyond the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States, works together with the measures documented in the new report by addressing the transport of ozone and pollutants that cause ozone into the OTC's region. NO_x is formed primarily from fuel combustion operations, including combustion at major utility power plants that generate electricity.

EPA has indicated that they intend to take final action this month on its program. This program is crucial for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States to attain the original ozone air quality standard. EPA last year finalized a new ozone air quality standard that is anticipated to necessitate additional pollution reduction in the future.

Specifically, the report concludes that:

- Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States have generally implemented more types of emission reduction measures than States elsewhere in the country, other than California, to clean up their own ground-level ozone (smog) problems. Unlike most other States of the country, these measures have generally been implemented statewide, as opposed to just individual metropolitan areas.
- These measures are producing pollution reductions now, and will produce even more in the future. By the year 2007, a 43% reduction in NO_x emissions is projected for the region compared to 1990;
- Meeting the first of two health-based ozone air quality standards in the region depends on EPA's plan to reduce NO_x being implemented throughout the eastern United States as it was originally proposed.
- Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States are willing to do more to reduce air pollution, and will evaluate possible new pollution control strategies to reach the new ozone air quality standard.

The OTC was created by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to coordinate the regional development of control plans for ground-level ozone (the primary constituent in smog) 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 the OTC.

