

December 29, 2005

Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1  
EPA, New England  
One Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

***Re: NSR Stringency Demonstration for the State of Connecticut***

Dear Administrator Varney:

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submits the enclosed demonstration that the Connecticut New Source Review (NSR) program is at least as stringent as the Federal NSR program as revised on December 31, 2002 (67 FR 80186; the 2002 EPA rule) and modified by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on June 24, 2005. DEP relied on guidance from staff at EPA Region 1 and the *Supplemental Analysis of the Environmental Impact of the 2002 Final NSR Improvement Rules* in the preparation of the enclosed demonstration.

Through an examination of the baseline emissions, applicability test and plantwide applicability limit provisions of the 2002 EPA rule in comparison with the Connecticut program, we demonstrate that the Connecticut NSR program, as revised effective March 15, 2002 and approved by EPA effective March 31, 2003 [68 FR 9009, February 27, 2003], ensures environmental protection more stringently than EPA's NSR program. At the same time, our program maximizes operating flexibility and promotes administrative efficiency for Connecticut's major and non-major sources. In designing Connecticut's NSR program, DEP has exercised a level of discretion, as allowed by EPA (*see, e.g.*, the 2002 EPA rule at 80241), to customize the program to take into consideration Connecticut's unique business and air quality needs.

We have very much appreciated the cooperation and assistance of staff at Region 1 in the preparation of the enclosed demonstration and look forward to your concurrence with our conclusions. With this effort behind us, we look forward to future cooperative efforts to further our mutual goals of attainment with the 8-hour ozone and fine particulate standards. We believe that by working together we can best achieve the goal of improving our regulations to improve air quality.

Sincerely,

Anne R. Gobin, Chief  
Bureau of Air Management

Enclosure