

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RE: May 20, 1988

JECT: S. D. Warren Paper - Interim Grandfathering Until ISC6MOD is Available for Regular Use

FROM: Susan Kulstad, Chief, Technical Assistance Section

TO: Joseph Tikvart, Chief, Source Receptor Analysis Branch (MD-14)

In order to respond to a request by S.D. Warren to conduct modeling immediately, I am requesting that the model clearinghouse concur on the Region's position to grandfather the source from the requirement to apply ISC6MOD since this model is not yet adequately operable.

Background

S.D. Warren (Scott Paper) is a paper mill located in predominantly low level terrain in the vicinity of Portland, Maine. The mill, which has some stacks having stack to building height ratios of less than 1.5, applied to the Maine DEP for a PSD permit to modify its facility. During a period when its modeling resources were short-staffed, the Maine DEP agreed to an unacceptable air quality demonstration approach with the company, in a meeting where no modeling staff was present and without EPA consultation. The regional office only recently became aware of this situation when reviewing the draft PSD permit per Craig Potter's memorandum of December 1, 1987.

The modeling approach taken involved reliance on a 1980 refined modeling demonstration inappropriately combined with screening modeling. No attempt was made to account for nearby sources licensed in the vicinity since the 1980 demonstration (including background).

On May 3, EPA submitted a comment letter to the DEP notifying them that the draft license was inadequate to meet federal requirements, including its modeling demonstration of protection of standards. Because of its earlier agreements with the DEP, EPA's action - particularly its requirement that the modeling demonstration be conducted according to current guidelines and with current model versions - dramatically altered S.D. Warren's schedule and contractual arrangements for constructing a new recovery boiler at its mill. The company contends that a delay in licensing beyond June 6 will cause a significant increase in their costs due to contractual agreements for which they are liable and undermine their ability to restart construction for a matter of months due to heavy summertime contractor demand.

EPA held a model protocol meeting with the company and DEP on May 5, and set forth EPA's timing and other requirements for congressional staff of the two Maine senators in a teleconference on May 16. S.D. Warren is prepared to have their consultant perform the requisite modeling immediately.

Region I Proposal

Because of EPA's intervention in the DEP's licensing process, the responsiveness of the DEP and the company to EPA's comments, and the consequences of further delay to the company, the regional office proposes in this case to grandfather this modeling demonstration from the requirements of the January 6, 1988 rule concerning the revised version of ISC (53 FR 392) in the interim period that the ISC6 MOD version is rendered unavailable while being corrected by EPA, and allow S.D. Warren to proceed with the modeling demonstration using the ISCST UNAMAP6 version in effect before January 6. Under this proposal, the regional office would notify the company and the DEP (1) that any future modeling for this source whether part of this permit application or for some other purpose would require application of the most current model version at such time; and, (2) that revised emission limitation(s) based on the results of modeling with the most current version may be necessary.