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APPENDIX C GLOSSARY

All definitions from: U.S. EPA, "Terms of Environment: Glossary, Abbreviations and Acronyms," last updated June 18, 2009, <http://www.epa.gov/OCEPATERMS/>.

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Attainment Area

An area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the national ambient air quality standards as defined in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT)

An emission limitation based on the maximum degree of emission reduction (considering energy, environmental, and economic impacts) achievable through application of production processes and available methods, systems, and techniques. BACT does not permit emissions in excess of those allowed under any applicable Clean Air Act provisions. Use of the BACT concept is allowable on a case by case basis for major new or modified emissions sources in attainment areas and applies to each regulated pollutant.

Criteria Air Pollutant

The 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act required EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for certain pollutants known to be hazardous to human health. EPA has identified and set standards to protect human health and welfare for six pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide. The term, "criteria pollutants" derives from the requirement that EPA must describe

the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. It is on the basis of these criteria that standards are set or revised.

Federal Implementation Plan (FIP)

Under current law, a federally implemented plan to achieve attainment of air quality standards, used when a state is unable to develop an adequate plan.

Fossil Fuels

Fuel derived from ancient organic remains; e.g. peat, coal, crude oil, and natural gas.

Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP)

Air pollutants which are not covered by ambient air quality standards but which, as defined in the Clean Air Act, may present a threat of adverse human health effects or adverse environmental effects. Such pollutants include asbestos, beryllium, mercury, benzene, coke oven emissions, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride.

Major Stationary Sources

Term used to determine the applicability of Prevention of Significant Deterioration and new source regulations. In a nonattainment area, any station-

ary pollutant source with potential to emit more than 100 tons per year is considered a major stationary source. In PSD areas the cutoff level may be either 100 or 250 tons, depending upon the source.

Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT)

The emission standard for sources of air pollution requiring the maximum reduction of hazardous emissions, taking cost and feasibility into account. Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the MACT must not be less than the average emission level achieved by controls on the best performing 12 percent of existing sources, by category of industrial and utility sources.

Mobile Source

Any non-stationary source of air pollution such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, airplanes, and locomotives.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Standards established by EPA that apply for outdoor air throughout the country.

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants

Emissions standards set by EPA for an air pollutant not covered by NAAQS that may cause an increase in fatalities or in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness. Primary standards are designed to protect human health, secondary standards to protect public welfare (e.g. building facades, visibility, crops, and domestic animals).

New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)

Uniform national EPA air emission and water effluent standards which limit the amount of pollution allowed from new sources or from modified existing sources.

New Source Review (NSR)

A Clean Air Act requirement that State Implementation Plans must include a permit review that applies to the construction and operation of new and modified stationary sources in nonattainment areas to ensure attainment of national ambient air quality standards.

Nonattainment Area

Area that does not meet one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the criteria pollutants designated in the Clean Air Act.

Permit

An authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency to implement the requirements of an environmental regulation; e.g. a permit to operate a wastewater treatment plant or to operate a facility that may generate harmful emissions.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

EPA program in which state and/or federal permits are required in order to restrict emissions from new or modified sources in places where air quality already meets or exceeds primary and secondary ambient air quality standards.

Scrubber

An air pollution device that uses a spray of water or reactant or a dry process to trap pollutants in emissions.

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

EPA approved state plans for the establishment, regulation, and enforcement of air pollution standards.

Stationary Source

A fixed-site producer of pollution, mainly power plants and other facilities using industrial combustion processes.