

Appendix Q

Control Option 45

Reformulated Gasoline (VOCs and NO_x)

Reformulated gasoline (RFG) is gasoline that is blended such that, on average, it significantly reduces Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and air toxics emissions relative to conventional gasoline. These reductions can help limit ozone formation. EPA could be petitioned to require reformulated gasoline for the Front Range urban counties, and fewer VOC and toxic (e.g, benzene) emissions would result. See EPA's RFG web page: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/rfg.htm>

The Clean Air Act provides that upon the application of a Governor, EPA shall apply the prohibition against selling conventional gasoline in "any area in the State classified under subpart 2 of Part D of Title I as a Marginal, Moderate, Serious or Severe" ozone non-attainment area. Section 211(k)(6)(A) of the Act, stipulates that the effective program date must be no "later than January 1, 1995 or 1 year after [the Governor's] application is received, whichever is later." Although the Act provides EPA discretion to establish the effective date for this prohibition to apply to such areas, and allows EPA to consider whether there is sufficient domestic capacity to produce RFG in establishing the effective date, EPA does not have discretion to deny a Governor's request.

Benefits:

This control strategy can reduce mobile source VOC emissions. However, without more specific information on the reformulation it is unknown how much, if any, NO_x emissions would be reduced.

Feasibility:

If the Denver EAC area violated the 8-hour ozone standard and was designated nonattainment, the area would most likely continue to be a "subpart 1" area, as is currently shown in 40 CFR 81.306, and reformulated gasoline is not required for those areas. As per our Phase 1 8-hour ozone policy (see 69 FR 23951, April 30, 2004), an 8-hour ozone nonattainment area would only be classified as a subpart 2 area if the 1-hour ozone design value was greater than 121 ppb.

If Denver did get a non-attainment designation, the State could opt-in to a reformulated gasoline program only if the area also falls under subpart 2 for ozone.

The State could pursue a voluntary-implementation reformulated gasoline program with the applicable refiners.