

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY

LOCATION - SUBJECT: _____

MINUTE ORDER NO. 81-40

Rural Growth Policy
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At the public hearing held on January 23 for purposes of receiving comments on the proposed adoption of regulations for the Prevention of Significant Air Quality Deterioration (PSD), comments were received which expressed a need for the adoption of a rural growth policy. The commentators indicated that such a policy was needed because PSD permit applicants engaged in the pre-application monitoring required by the PSD regulations in attainment areas, would detect violation of the ozone standard. Consequently, the Department, under existing procedures, would be obligated to designate the affected area as non-attainment and develop a plan of obtaining a sufficient number of offsets to theoretically correct the violation. Such a piece-meal process of redesignating areas of Arkansas represents inappropriate delays in industrial development and considerable cost to the Department while offering little opportunity for meaningful air quality improvements because of the general lack of existing hydrocarbon sources.

Therefore, comments were requested and received at a public hearing held on March 26. Subsequent to the review of those comments and others received since, the designation of the entire state as not attaining the ozone standard does not seem to be acceptable.

ORDER:

The staff is hereby directed to proceed as expeditiously as practicable, with the development of a control strategy for ozone and related regulations which could be applied in areas of Arkansas outside of Pulaski County.

COMMIS-
SIONERS

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SUBMITTED BY Wilson Tolefree DATE PASSED 5-22-81