

into the administrative processes so as to correct the situation giving rise to foreign concerns.

The structure of the Act is complex. However, the following general description of provisions of the Act should provide some understanding of how the Act works.

i. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Under Section 103 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must issue air quality criteria for pollutants that cause or contribute to air pollution which may endanger public health or welfare and are emitted from numerous and diverse sources. Simultaneously with issuance of air quality criteria for a pollutant, the Administrator is required under Section 109 to propose national primary (health-protection) and secondary (welfare-protective) ambient air quality standards for that pollutant. After opportunity for comment the Administrator must promulgate the standards with any modifications he deems appropriate. EPA is currently reviewing the criteria and national standards for sulfur oxides (SO_x), particulate matter and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

The NO_x criteria document is complete. However, it will be several months before the proposed standard is published. At that time, there will be opportunities to submit comments on the proposed standard and testify at public hearings. Canadian citizens or governmental entities may participate in this process. In addition, EPA is preparing a separate document on the effects of acid deposition. This document will be available for public (including Canadian) review when the draft is complete.

ii. Area Designation

Under Section 107, States are required to submit to the Administrator lists which designate, as to each pollutant for which a national ambient air quality standard is set, air quality control regions (or portions thereof) that: 1) are attaining the standard; 2) are not attaining the standard; or 3) cannot be classified as to attainment. The designations must be approved by EPA. Prior to final EPA action, EPA policy requires notice and comment rulemaking in which the public, including Canadian citizens and government entities, may participate.

iii. State Implementation Plans and Revisions

Section 110 requires the development of state implementation plans (SIP's) which serve to implement,