

Clarice E. Gaylord, Director
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Justice
EPA 2201A
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460

November 12, 1996

Dear Dr. Gaylord,

We are in need of help in two areas pertaining to Title V permitting, which is required under the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. We have exhausted normal channels for obtaining answers and cooperation, and hope that your office can help us obtain the information that should be our right as citizens.

Louisiana is currently in the process of approving Title V permit applications from major chemical and petrochemical facilities. A recent report from Southern University showed that many of these facilities are located in areas with disproportionate minority populations. Environmental justice concerns are very real as Louisiana goes through this Title V permitting process. We are asking you for help in resolving some critical issues related to Title V permitting in Louisiana.

First, we need help in locating and following up on two letters that have been sent to the EPA. These letters were sent to Mr. Steve Herman of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Copies of these letters are included.

Secondly, we need to find a group or forum at the EPA that can help in resolving technical disputes associated with the Clean Air Act amendments. The amendments call for the creation and application of Maximum Achievable Control Technology standards by the EPA. The EPA subsequently spent millions of dollars in developing these standards. Our problem is that we are having trouble finding an agency group that is qualified and willing to help interpret these standards when a conflict arises in the application of the standards. The EPA's Region VI is currently relying on Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality to interpret these standards. We feel that the EPA's technical departments should be the ones to interpret the standards and should be the group that arbitrates disputes in the application of the standards.

We hope your office is able to help us. Please contact Gary Miller by phone or fax at 504-344-0779, or by e-mail at gpmiller@worldnet.att.net.

Sincerely,

Marylee Orr