

# **Implementation Principles for Addressing Agriculture Equipment under the Clean Air Act**

## **Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 1998 that formalized a working relationship between the two agencies relative to air quality in the agricultural industry. The MOU set forth joint responsibilities for both agencies regarding agricultural air quality issues. It also provided considerable assurance to the agricultural sector that the exchange of air quality information, the review of research and the design of implementation measures would be jointly coordinated. To date, the two agencies have worked cooperatively to identify mutually agreeable solutions to address air quality concerns in areas dominated with agricultural-related emissions contributing to the problem. The following implementation principles are consistent with the objectives outlined in the 1998 MOU and will guide future coordination efforts as the agency focuses on air quality impacts for agricultural equipment and implements used in the U.S. agricultural sector.

Cooperation in the past has involved efforts to ensure that when measures are taken in the agricultural sector to improve air quality, they are both technologically and economically feasible for individual landowners and users and are based on the best and most recent science.

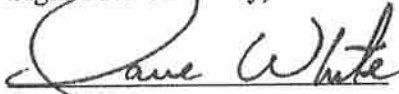
## **Statement of Principles**

1. The two agencies will work together to develop priorities based on their most recent activities and agency regulations and guidelines. In particular, under the MOU, the two agencies will cooperatively seek to address the issue of farm equipment compliance with all applicable federal air quality regulations using the tools available to each agency. Farm equipment includes both stationary and mobile equipment used in farming or agricultural operations. This type of equipment includes, but is not limited to: tractors and harvesters, irrigation equipment, product processing equipment and boilers and precision application technologies. An example of a recent federal regulation that applies to farm equipment compliance is the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines, promulgated in 2010, but currently under reconsideration in 2012.
2. The two agencies will work together to determine how to best assist the agricultural sector in meeting its compliance requirements with applicable state air quality rules and regulations for farm equipment. The agencies will also encourage voluntary efforts permitted under the Clean Air Act (CAA) to improve air quality through replacement or retrofit of engines or equipment with newer, more efficient technologies. Priority should also be given to areas where reductions from agricultural emissions are needed for attaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
3. USDA will continue to develop new and/or improve existing technical standards and best management practices to meet air quality objectives across the nation. The EPA will work with USDA to identify air quality areas or rules that may have an impact on

agriculture to ensure USDA's ability to prioritize the development of new and/or improved measures. The EPA will continue to consult with the technical experts at the USDA on regulatory matters that may impact agriculture.

4. The EPA and USDA will work together in a coordinated manner on all air quality regulatory issues that affect agricultural production. The two agencies will also work together to provide a mechanism pursuant to the CAA to quantify for state implementation plan credit emissions reductions from farm equipment, achieved through voluntary incentive programs at the state/local level. These programs and reductions must meet all criteria (i.e., surplus, quantifiable, enforceable and permanent) for creditable emission reductions and be consistent with the CAA as interpreted in various written policies including the EPA's Economic Incentive Program and/or voluntary measures policies.

Signed for USDA by,



Dave White  
Chief, NRCS

7-26-12  
Date

Signed for U.S. EPA by,



Gina McCarthy  
Assistant Administrator, OAR

7/12/12  
Date