



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Winnie Chan
Engineer, Air Resources Division
Reliant Energy Aurora Generating Station
P.O. Box 286
Houston, Texas 770001 - 0286

Subject: Petition for an Extension of CEMS Certification Deadline for
Reliant Energy's Aurora Generating Station

Dear Ms: Chan:

EPA has reviewed Reliant Energy's (Reliant) November 13, 2001 petition under §75.66(a) requesting an extension of the continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) certification deadline for the six units at Aurora Generating Station. As discussed below, EPA approves an extension for these units with certain conditions.

Background

The units at Aurora Generating Station are ten, simple-cycle, combustion turbines located in Illinois. Units 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 commenced commercial operation June 28, May 25, May 23, May 23, June 1, and June 15, 2001 respectively. Under §75.4(b), each unit's nitrogen oxides (NO_x) CEMS must be certified within 90 days after commencement of commercial operation of the unit. Reliant requested an extension of the deadline for certifying the NO_x CEMS on six units. Reliant states that the certification testing has been delayed because a contractor lost the data for the cycle response time test which is required by §75.20(a) and (c) and failed to notify Reliant until the after the units had been winterized. The units are not scheduled to return to service until after April 1, 2002.

EPA's Determination

Because Units 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 were winterized prior to the contractor notifying Reliant that the results of the cycle response test were lost, EPA is extending the deadline for each unit to 168 operating hours (24 hours times 7 days) after the units are restarted in 2002.

However, EPA maintains that the extension should be conditioned on Reliant reporting NO_x emissions for the entire period for which reporting is required under part 75, i.e., starting from the original certification deadline. Consequently, Reliant shall report substitute data for both units for each operating hour, from the first hour after 90 days from the respective unit's commencement of commercial operation until the hour for which that unit's NO_x CEMS is certified under §75.20(a). In order to ensure that NO_x emissions are not under-reported, Reliant shall use, as substitute data, the maximum potential emission rate for NO_x in accordance with part 75, Appendix A, Section 2.1.2.1.

EPA's determination in this letter relies on the accuracy and completeness of Reliant's submission November 13, 2001 and is appealable under part 78. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Louis Nichols at (202) 564-0161.

Sincerely,


Panagiotis E. Tsirigotis, Acting Director
Clean Air Markets Division

cc: Cecelia Mijares, Region 5
Shibu Vazha, IEPA