



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

SEP 30 2002

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Wes M. Taylor
Designated Representative
TXU Energy
1601 Bryan Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

Re: Petition for extension for CEMS certification at Sweetwater Unit GT02.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the August 9, 2002 petition from TXU Energy (TXU) for its Sweetwater Generating Plant (Sweetwater) under §75.66(a) of the Acid Rain regulations. The petition requests extension of the deadline to complete certification of continuous emission monitors (CEMS) for one (GT02) of the three combustion turbines at Sweetwater under Part 75. For the reasons discussed below, EPA approves the petition with conditions.

Background

TXU purchased Sweetwater, a gas-fired 255 MW gas-fired plant located in Sweetwater, Texas (Nolan County), which comprises three combustion turbines and one steam turbine, from Encogen One Partners (Encogen). Encogen previously requested, and EPA approved, an extension of the deadline for certification of CEMS at all three units (GT01, GT02, and GT03). Because the units had not operated sufficiently for certification testing to be completed and were at the time shut down, EPA extended the CEMS certification deadline until 90 days after the units recommenced operation. According to TXU, the units recommenced operation on June 11, 2002, and the new CEMS certification deadline was therefore September 9, 2002. Further, TXU is in the process of completing the CEMS certification process and completed certification of the CEMS at Units GT01 and GT03 by September 9, 2002.

However, TXU has encountered additional equipment problems with Unit GT02 and requests an additional CEMS certification extension for the unit. Unit GT02 has developed a hole in the tube housing of the combustion cans, resulting in damage to the rotating blades. According to TXU, the unit cannot be operated until major repairs are completed. Further, TXU does not anticipate completing the repairs until spring 2003 because funding for the repairs will not be

available in 2002 and many of the parts needed for repair may not be readily available and must be manufactured on special order. Specifically, TXU expects the repairs to be completed, and the unit to recommence operation, during the period February 15-March 30, 2003. TXU requests EPA to set a new CEMS certification deadline for Unit GT02 of 30 days after the unit recommences operation from its current shutdown.

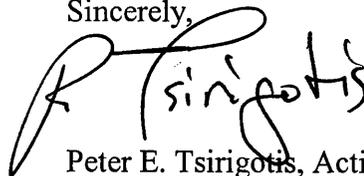
EPA's Determination

TXU apparently experienced unavoidable, technical problems with Unit GT02. These problems will prevent TXU from meeting the existing CEMS certification deadline for Unit GT02. TXU appears to be taking reasonable measures to resolve these problems. Under these circumstances, EPA approves an extension of the CEMS certification deadline for Unit GT02 until 30 days after the unit recommences operation from its current shutdown.

However, EPA maintains that the extension should be conditioned on TXU reporting emissions for the entire period for which reporting is required under Part 75, i.e., starting from the original certification deadline for each unit. Consequently, TXU shall report substitute data for Unit GT02 for each operating hour, from September 6, 2001 (the original certification deadline) until the hour for which the unit's CEMS are certified under §75.20(a). EPA notes that quarterly emission reports that include some of these data have already been submitted. In order to ensure that emissions are not under-reported, TXU shall use, as substitute data, the maximum potential values in accordance with Part 75, Appendix A, Sections 2.1.2 through 2.1.4.

EPA's determination relies on the accuracy and completeness of the information in the June 24, 2002 petition and is appealable under Part 78 of the Acid Rain regulations. If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact Ruben Deza at (202) 564-3956.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Tsirigotis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter E. Tsirigotis, Acting Director
Clean Air Markets Division

cc. Joseph Winkler, Region VI