

If I may read it. This is a partial reading of that section:

It is the intent of Congress that no agreement or compact entered into between states after the date of enactment of the Air Quality Act of 1967, which relates to the control and abatement of air pollution in an air quality control region shall provide for participation by a state which is not included in whole or in part in such air quality control regions.

We are attempting to enunciate that the designation of air quality control regions shall identify a community of interest in a common air pollution problem. This, then, suggests some of the principles involved in the designation of air quality control regions. They will be descriptive of and include the communities and political jurisdictions that have the problem and are able to cope with it. This means that there will be many, many such air quality control regions scattered across the country in those critical problem areas. The exact number I cannot forecast, but we are talking of more than 100. I am hopeful that we will be able to designate several of the more important ones before the close of this fiscal year. This is a task, Mr. Chairman, that requires considerable scientific enterprise and a great deal of technology.

Mr. DADDARIO. Does it require just enterprise or does it require research so that such a scientific and technical capability can be developed and so that airsheds or air regions, however you may put it, can in fact be established firmly?

Dr. MIDDLETON. I advisedly use the word "enterprise." Much of the information that is required, most in fact exists. It takes ingenuity and effort to see that what exists can be brought into the format that is required; namely, for this particular purpose, mathematical modeling of cities, diffusion gradients for pollutants, the nature of the urban community, probable growth factors. All of these elements when put together are the essence of the principles involved in the description of air quality control regions.

I am saying that to do this initially will be an arduous task and an exacting one, but it can be done and it can be done shortly. After the first few have been well worked out, it is my opinion that the several more that are required will emerge much more quickly.

I will be nonspecifically responsive, if I may, on how many at what particular time, except to say we expect to have several before the end of this fiscal year and many, many more in the next fiscal year.

Mr. RYAN. As you designate those air quality control regions, will you simultaneously or at a later point issue the air quality criteria for those regions? I am trying to understand the timetable.

As I understand it, after you issue the criteria, the States still have 15 months in which to submit a plan to you.

Without prolonging this discussion this morning because the time is short, how soon can we expect the first State to come forward with a plan under the statute?

Dr. MIDDLETON. Under the statute, if we publish today an air quality criterion for some pollutant, within 90 days we would expect—and by "published" I mean properly announced—we would expect in 90 days the State to indicate its intent to adopt an ambient air quality standard. The State then would have, as you are enunciating very clearly, 6 months in which to adopt this standard. It would then have an additional 6 months in which to provide, for the Secretary's consideration, an implementation plan.