

States will not actually be obligated to begin developing air quality standards for any pollutant until the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare publishes air quality criteria for that pollutant *and* information on available control techniques applicable to the various sources of that pollutant. Air quality criteria will describe the effects of air pollutants on health and property. They will reflect the best available scientific knowledge, even though that knowledge may not be as complete as we would like it to be. The information we will publish on control technology will identify the best techniques available for reducing pollutant emissions at their various sources, whether those techniques involve the application of control equipment, changes in fuel use or industrial processes, or any other practical approach. Since air quality criteria and information on control technology must be published *before* States can be called upon to begin developing air quality standards, the Air Quality Act must clearly be implemented as fully as possible on the basis of the best scientific and technical knowledge already available, while at the same time, an expanded research effort is undertaken to fill the gaps in this knowledge. Any other course would inevitably result in a slowdown of the Nation's efforts to deal with a problem that is already serious and threatens to reach critical proportions all too soon.

The publication of air quality criteria for a pollutant and information on applicable control technology will be the signal for States to begin developing air quality standards for that pollutant and detailed plans for implementation of the standards in air quality control regions that have been designated by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Air quality standards will prescribe limitations on ambient air levels of pollutants in a region; since the fundamental purpose of setting such standards is to provide for the protection of public health and welfare, State governments will be expected to consider, among other things, the air quality criteria that have been published in accordance with the Air Quality Act. States will also be expected to take into consideration the published information on control technology.

The Air Quality Act sets up a timetable which States must follow in developing air quality standards and implementation plans and requires that the standards and plans be reviewed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In addition, the Act prescribes the procedures to be followed in the event that a State either fails to meet its obligations or submits standards which are not consistent with the provisions of the Act. And finally, the Act makes it clear that States will be expected to assume the major responsibility for seeing that their plans for implementation of air quality standards are carried out. If action by a State proves inadequate, however, provision is made for enforcement at the Federal level.

I indicated, a few moments ago, the importance of research to expand and improve our knowledge of the adverse effects of air pollution and of ways to prevent and control it. The Air Quality Act provides for a substantially accelerated research effort, with special emphasis on finding new and improved ways of dealing with the complex and very serious problems associated with motor vehicles and the use of sulfur-containing fuels. We will, of course, expand the work being done in our own facilities and in those of other Federal departments and agencies. But we will have to rely, too, on the many industries that are capable of contributing to the search for practical solutions to the various technical problems involved in controlling air pollution; indeed, we have already begun moving toward much greater utilization of the resources of industry.

The Air Quality Act also provides for continuation of many of the activities initiated under the Clean Air Act of 1963. One of these activities is the abatement of interstate and intrastate air pollution problems; this activity, as I have already noted, has been productive in several places in the country. In addition, the Air Quality Act provides new authority for court action to curtail pollutant emissions in emergency situations—that is, when adverse meteorological conditions threaten to produce an episode of extraordinarily high air pollution levels in any place in the country.

Another activity that will be continued is the awarding of matching grants to local, State, and regional governmental agencies to help them create and carry on effective programs for the prevention and control of air pollution.