

Dr. ECKARDT. I think the problem comes in that we don't know where the level is going to be set. I think the example is evidenced by the fact that three different people came up with three different criteria.

Mr. DADDARIO. By "level" do you mean there is no level which can be set which you now are capable of meeting?

Dr. ECKARDT. There is some level, yes.

Mr. DADDARIO. Is this part of the problem?

Dr. ECKARDT. I think this is right, yes.

We had a conference with the Public Health Service prior to the issuance of these (indicating) and we proposed that rather than come out with these recommended levels at this time that perhaps we come out with an intermediary level until such time as the leadtime to produce what they felt really was necessary would be obtained.

Mr. DADDARIO. Are you able to discuss why this recommendation was not followed?

Dr. ECKARDT. I don't understand that. I don't know why, frankly.

Mr. DADDARIO. But your request for an intermediary standard was so that you could develop the technical capability in order to put your shop in order and to meet that particular criteria. Once achieved, you could then begin looking for higher goals.

Mr. GAMMELGARD. That was part of it, I might add, Mr. Chairman. The other part was that with inadequate monitoring in New York City they didn't know what was in the atmosphere in New York City as a whole—just a couple of points. By bringing the sulfur down from around 2.5 percent in the residual fuel oils used in the powerplants and other big buildings, down to some intermediate level, then establishing a good monitoring system, which Austin Heller is now doing—you might find by going to 1 percent you would achieve a satisfactory level of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere. To require going from 2.5 down to three-tenths in a couple of years could result in sulfur dioxide levels lower than the one-tenth part per million recommended by PHS.

Mr. DADDARIO. Then your problem involves the techniques necessary to know what ought to be done, and then the ability to have the time within which you could acceptably and technically meet those requirements.

Mr. GAMMELGARD. Exactly.

Mr. MOSHER. In the book supplied by U.S. Public Health Service, what are the time requirements with regard to the one-tenth part per million?

Dr. ECKARDT. This is not a regulation, but a criteria. We are concerned about the mechanism by which criteria would be adopted into standards which would then come under regulations.

Mr. MOSHER. You are not under any specific time compulsion?

Dr. ECKARDT. Under this document, no, but in Pennsylvania, yes.

Mr. BELL. Dr. Eckardt, you said the Bechtel Corp. was doing a study in which the cost of equipping the refineries in the Caribbean areas to produce low sulfur content oils would cost in the area of three-quarters of a billion dollars. What was the level you were trying to reach in that study?

Mr. GAMMELGARD. That was getting down to a level of approximately a half percent. Hopefully maybe a little lower than that.

Mr. BELL. Actually that may not even be a requirement as far as the eastern seaboard is concerned? You may be getting 2 percent or 1 percent?