



**Essroc**  
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JUN 13 2008

June 12, 2008

Ms. Kathleen A. McGinty  
PA Department of the Environment  
Environmental Quality Board  
P. O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

(UPS Next Day) Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor, 400 Market Street,  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

**Re: 25 PA. CODE CHS.121, 129 and 145. Proposed Rulemaking**

Dear Ms. McGinty:

Essroc Cement Corporation (Essroc) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Pennsylvania Rulemaking regarding NO<sub>x</sub> control. Essroc is a national cement manufacturer with eleven locations in North America, two of which are in Pennsylvania and will be affected by the regulations. Our Nazareth operations contain a pre-heater kiln located in the more urban eastern portion of the Commonwealth. The Bessemer operations contain two long wet kilns and are located in a more rural western portion of the Commonwealth.

We understand the purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from cement kilns and to reduce levels of ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is not directly emitted by pollution sources, but is created as a result of the chemical reaction of NO<sub>x</sub> and volatile organic compounds in the presence of light and heat. The reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions will also help protect the public health from high levels of fine particulates, of which NO<sub>x</sub> is a precursor component. We recognize that excessive levels of fine particulates, as well as ozone, are health hazards.

Essroc has a fundamental interest in seeing the Rulemaking implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is clear and workable in the business community. We continue to operate our kilns with the understanding that we should continually strive to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from cement kilns and to reduce levels of ground-level ozone.

Essroc supports the proposed rulemaking in the further development of health-based standards to lower ozone in the Commonwealth. We also support the strategy to select a compliance alternative that allows multi-plant companies to comply with the regulations on a facility-wide emission averaging basis or a system-wide averaging basis among Portland cement kilns under the common control of the same owner in the Commonwealth. In addition we support the use of CAIR NO<sub>x</sub> Ozone Season Allowances as a complementary solution and economic alternative in our compliance strategy.

Sincerely,  
Essroc Cement Corp.

Gary A. Molchan  
Vice President Environmental Affairs

cc: Jim Litter, Bessemer  
Don Everett, Nazareth