

BEFORE THE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
STATE OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION)
OF REVISIONS TO THE FLUORIDE)
REGULATIONS IN THE AIR QUALITY)
STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS)

STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPAL REASONS
FOR ADOPTION

This rulemaking was initiated for the purpose of revising the regulation for fluorides appearing in Section 11 of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. At sufficient levels in the environment, fluoride can produce an adverse effect on vegetation and subsequently on animals which consume that vegetation. Therefore, in order to protect the sensitive vegetation species, standards for concentration of fluoride in the ambient air are necessary. In addition, standards for the concentrations of fluorides in vegetation consumed by foraging animals are also necessary to provide protection for such foraging animals. The Environmental Quality Act provides that ambient standards may be established for the state as a whole or may vary from area to area as may be appropriate to facilitate accomplishment of the purposes of the Act and in order to take account of varying local conditions. The testimony received by the Council indicates that standards necessary to protect the most sensitive vegetation species in the state are not required in a specific area of Sweetwater County. The testimony further provides justification for the establishment of a standard for fluorides in the ambient air specifically tailored for that particular area which is different from the standard which is necessary for statewide application. With respect to the issue of fluorides in forage and the impact on sensitive foraging species in the state, the testimony on the record indicates that the sensitive species exist statewide including the area in Sweetwater County for which a regional ambient air quality standard was considered.

Conclusion

After full consideration of the extensive testimony received at the public hearing and the written comments which were received, the Environmental Quality Council determines that the adoption of *these regulations* is necessary and appropriate to preserve and exercise the primary responsibilities and rights of the State of Wyoming, to retain for the state the control over its air, land, and water resources and secure cooperation between state and federal government in carrying out the policy and the purposes of the Environmental Quality Act and the protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the environment of the state. Specifically, the Council also concludes that a specifically delineated region of Sweetwater County shall be defined as being subject to an ambient air quality standard which is different from the standard which is applicable to the remaining area of the state. In addition, the Council concludes that the sensitive foraging animals species which exist in the state can be expected to forage in the specific area of Sweetwater County which is subject to the regional ambient air quality standard for fluoride, and therefore the standard for fluoride in forage should be a statewide standard.

Dated this 18th day of September, 1985.

Harold L. Bergman
Harold L. Bergman, Chairman
Environmental Quality Council