



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 29 2000

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Robert C. Smith  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
& Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your question as to whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified reasonably available control technology (RACT) for ethanol emissions from alcohol beverage aging warehouses. One control technology which has been suggested in this regard is carbon adsorption which conceivably could be applied to the warehouse ventilation exhaust to capture ethanol fumes. However, in order to capture the warehouse fumes it may be necessary to modify the air flowing through the warehouse which could affect temperature, humidity and ventilation in the warehouse. The industry has raised questions about whether these changes would adversely affect the product quality.

Due to this unresolved issue, EPA has not, at this time, declared that such add-on control devices are RACT for alcohol beverage aging warehouses. Nor has EPA currently identified any other available technology which it considers to be RACT for alcohol beverage aging warehouses. Therefore, EPA is not requiring states to control these sources in order to meet ozone control state implementation plan requirements.

I appreciate this opportunity to be of service and trust that this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

John C. Beale  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
for Air and Radiation

cc: The Honorable Max Baucus

