



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 18, 2005

Contact Jennifer Burcham, OCE 703-622-3593

---

## REFINERIES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO INSTALL UP-TO-DATE AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS

San Francisco, Calif. — Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) said today that it plans to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to require the Agency to update Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) requirements for petroleum refineries. These standards require petroleum refineries that are major sources of hazardous air pollutants, to meet emission standards reflecting the application of the MACT standard in the federal Clean Air Act.

The group filed the requisite 60-day notice saying it will sue the federal agency for failing to update these standards every eight years as the Act requires.

"This is yet another instance of the EPA simply ignoring the law," said Tiffany Schauer, Executive Director of Our Children's Earth. "There are about 165 refineries in the United States polluting the air of more than 67 million people. If these companies are required to meet updated MACT standards we could all breathe a little easier."

The notice, sent to the U.S. EPA's Administrator, Stephen Johnson, and U.S. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, alleges that the EPA did not update MACT standards in the year 2003, allowing petroleum refineries to use old technologies to meet 10-year-old MACT standards. This lapse has allowed existing refineries to operate without installing newer technology that would have prevented the emissions of additional hazardous pollutants into the air.

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA's administrator is required to review and update MACT standards, every eight years.

Petroleum refineries are a major source of Hazardous Air Pollutants including benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and other pollutants that are associated with a variety of adverse health effects ranging from cancer and other chronic health disorders to upper respiratory disorders.

###