

**D R A F T
OCTOBER 1990**

**New Source Review
Workshop Manual**

**Prevention of Significant Deterioration
and
Nonattainment Area
Permitting**

II. BACT APPLICABILITY

The BACT requirement applies to each individual new or modified affected emissions unit and pollutant emitting activity at which a net emissions increase would occur. Individual BACT determinations are performed for each pollutant subject to a PSD review emitted from the same emission unit. Consequently, the BACT determination must separately address, for each regulated pollutant with a significant emissions increase at the source, air pollution controls for each emissions unit or pollutant emitting activity subject to review.

III. A STEP BY STEP SUMMARY OF THE TOP-DOWN PROCESS

Table B-1 shows the five basic steps of the top-down procedure, including some of the key elements associated with each of the individual steps. A brief description of each step follows.

III.A. STEP 1--IDENTIFY ALL CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

The first step in a "top-down" analysis is to identify, for the emissions unit in question (the term "emissions unit" should be read to mean emissions unit, process or activity), all "available" control options. Available control options are those air pollution control technologies or techniques with a practical potential for application to the emissions unit and the regulated pollutant under evaluation. Air pollution control technologies and techniques include the application of production process or available methods, systems, and techniques, including fuel cleaning or treatment or innovative fuel combustion techniques for control of the affected pollutant. This includes technologies employed outside of the United States. As discussed later, in some circumstances inherently lower-polluting processes are appropriate for consideration as available control alternatives. The control alternatives should include not only existing controls for the source category in question, but also (through technology transfer) controls applied to similar source categories and gas streams, and innovative control technologies. Technologies required under lowest achievable emission rate (LAER) determinations are available for BACT purposes and must also be included as control alternatives and usually represent the top alternative.

In the course of the BACT analysis, one or more of the options may be eliminated from consideration because they are demonstrated to be technically infeasible or have unacceptable energy, economic, and environmental impacts on a case-by-case (or site-specific) basis. However, at the outset, applicants

TABLE B-1. - KEY STEPS IN THE "TOP-DOWN" BACT PROCESS

STEP 1: IDENTIFY ALL CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES.

- LIST is comprehensive (LAER included).

STEP 2: ELIMINATE TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE OPTIONS.

- A demonstration of technical infeasibility should be clearly documented and should show, based on physical, chemical, and engineering principles, that technical difficulties would preclude the successful use of the control option on the emissions unit under review.

STEP 3: RANK REMAINING CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES BY CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS.

Should include:

- control effectiveness (percent pollutant removed);
- expected emission rate (tons per year);
- expected emission reduction (tons per year);
- energy impacts (BTU, kWh);
- environmental impacts (other media and the emissions of toxic and hazardous air emissions); and
- economic impacts (total cost effectiveness, incremental cost effectiveness).

STEP 4: EVALUATE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTROLS AND DOCUMENT RESULTS.

- Case-by-case consideration of energy, environmental, and economic impacts.
- If top option is not selected as BACT, evaluate next most effective control option.

STEP 5: SELECT BACT

- Most effective option not rejected is BACT.

should initially identify all control options with potential application to the emissions unit under review.

III.B. STEP 2--ELIMINATE TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE OPTIONS

In the second step, the technical feasibility of the control options identified in step one is evaluated with respect to the source-specific (or emissions unit-specific) factors. A demonstration of technical infeasibility should be clearly documented and should show, based on physical, chemical, and engineering principles, that technical difficulties would preclude the successful use of the control option on the emissions unit under review. Technically infeasible control options are then eliminated from further consideration in the BACT analysis.

For example, in cases where the level of control in a permit is not expected to be achieved in practice (e.g., a source has received a permit but the project was cancelled, or every operating source at that permitted level has been physically unable to achieve compliance with the limit), and supporting documentation showing why such limits are not technically feasible is provided, the level of control (but not necessarily the technology) may be eliminated from further consideration. However, a permit requiring the application of a certain technology or emission limit to be achieved for such technology usually is sufficient justification to assume the technical feasibility of that technology or emission limit.

III.C. STEP 3--RANK REMAINING CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES BY CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS

In step 3, all remaining control alternatives not eliminated in step 2 are ranked and then listed in order of over all control effectiveness for the pollutant under review, with the most effective control alternative at the top. A list should be prepared for each pollutant and for each emissions unit (or grouping of similar units) subject to a BACT analysis. The list should present the array of control technology alternatives and should include the following types of information:

- ! control efficiencies (percent pollutant removed);
- ! expected emission rate (tons per year, pounds per hour);
- ! expected emissions reduction (tons per year);
- ! economic impacts (cost effectiveness);
- ! environmental impacts (includes any significant or unusual other media impacts (e.g., water or solid waste), and, at a minimum, the impact of each control alternative on emissions of toxic or hazardous air contaminants);
- ! energy impacts.

However, an applicant proposing the top control alternative need not provide cost and other detailed information in regard to other control options. In such cases the applicant should document that the control option chosen is, indeed, the top, and review for collateral environmental impacts.

III.D. STEP 4--EVALUATE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTROLS AND DOCUMENT RESULTS

After the identification of available and technically feasible control technology options, the energy, environmental, and economic impacts are considered to arrive at the final level of control. At this point the analysis presents the associated impacts of the control option in the listing. For each option the applicant is responsible for presenting an objective evaluation of each impact. Both beneficial and adverse impacts should be discussed and, where possible, quantified. In general, the BACT analysis should focus on the direct impact of the control alternative.

If the applicant accepts the top alternative in the listing as BACT, the applicant proceeds to consider whether impacts of unregulated air pollutants or impacts in other media would justify selection of an alternative control option. If there are no outstanding issues regarding collateral environmental impacts, the analysis is ended and the results proposed as BACT. In the event that the top candidate is shown to be inappropriate, due to energy, environmental, or economic impacts, the rationale for this finding should be

documented for the public record. Then the next most stringent alternative in the listing becomes the new control candidate and is similarly evaluated. This process continues until the technology under consideration cannot be eliminated by any source-specific environmental, energy, or economic impacts which demonstrate that alternative to be inappropriate as BACT.

III.E. STEP 5--SELECT BACT

The most effective control option not eliminated in step 4 is proposed as BACT for the pollutant and emission unit under review.