

U.S. Court Upholds Clean Air Standards – On March 26, 2002, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit upheld the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1997 under the Clean Air Act. The Court of Appeals decision ends a four-year legal battle and clears the way for implementation of the tough new standards. To meet the new air quality standards, which were adopted as part of the Clinton Administration’s environmental policy, mobile and stationary sources will need to substantially reduce PM, NO_x, and HC emissions. In 1997, key industries challenged the new ozone and PM standards and, in 1999, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled against the EPA. In 2001, the Supreme Court overruled the D.C. Circuit opinion and returned the case to the D.C. court for further review.