



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**ews**

## Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, **OCTOBER 2, 2002**  
[WWW.USDOJ.GOV](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV) [WWW.EPA.GOV](http://WWW.EPA.GOV) [WWW.PCA.STATE.MN.US](http://WWW.PCA.STATE.MN.US)

ENRD (202) 514-2007 EPA (202) 564-7873 MPCA (651) 296-6977  
Region 5, Minneapolis (312) 353-8254

### **UNITED STATES SETTLES WITH 12 MINNESOTA ETHANOL COMPANIES** Controls Will Reduce Air Pollution by Thousands of Tons Annually

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Minnesota today announced comprehensive **civil settlements with 12 ethanol plants in Minnesota for alleged Clean Air Act violations**. The settlements are the first agreements to mandate reductions in air pollution from the ethanol manufacturing industry.

The government alleges that the facilities were operating in violation of the Clean Air Act's New Source Review (NSR) provisions. The Clean Air Act's NSR program requires a source to install pollution controls and undertake other pre-construction obligations to control air pollution emissions.

The agreements announced today will **ensure each plant installs air pollution control equipment to greatly reduce air emissions such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 2,400-4,000 tons per year and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by 2,000 tons per year. In addition to contributing to ground-level ozone (smog), VOCs can cause serious health problems such as cancer and other effects; CO is harmful because it reduces oxygen delivery to the body's organs and tissues. The settlement also will result in annual reductions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 180 tons, particulate matter (PM) by 450 tons and hazardous air pollutants by 250 tons. ...**

Under the settlements, the plants will install thermal oxidizers that reduce VOC emissions by 95 percent from the feed dryers and meet new, more restrictive emission limits for NOx, PM, carbon monoxide and hazardous air pollutants. In addition to emission control requirements valued at about \$2 million per plant, **each facility will also pay a civil penalty ranging from \$29,000 - \$39,000. ...**

The following Minnesota facilities that have the combined capacity to produce more than 400 million gallons of ethanol per year, which is 17 percent of the national production, agreed to install state-of-the-art air pollution control technology at their dry corn mills:

Agra Resources Cooperative (Exol), Albert Lea Agri-Energy, L.L.C., Luvern Al-Corn Clean Fuel, Claremont Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative, Little Falls Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company (CVEC), Benson Corn Plus, Winnebago	Diversified Energy Co., L.L.C., (DENCO), Morris Ethanol 2000, Bingham Lake Gopher State Ethanol, St. Paul Heartland Corn Products, Winthrop Minnesota Energy, Buffalo Lake Pro-Corn L.L.C., Preston
--	--

....