

Note that since this guidance was issued, EPA has updated its regulations on the treatment of ethanol plants as chemical process plants. See 72 FR 24060 for more information.

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

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OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Classification of Ethanol Fuel Plants under PSD

FROM: Director  
Division of Stationary Source Enforcement

TO: Directors, Air & Hazardous Materials Divisions  
Regions I-X  
Directors, Enforcement Divisions, Regions I-X

This is to clarify the proper classification for ethanol fuel plants for purposes of PSD applicability. The Agency regards any source listed under major Group 28 of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) manual as a chemical process plant. Ethanol fuel is listed under SIC Group 286: Industrial Organic Chemicals. Ethanol fuel plants should therefore be considered a chemical process plant subject to the 100 tons per year threshold for PSD review.

Over the past few months this office has received several inquiries from industry and regional office representatives regarding conflicting interpretations of classification of ethanol fuel plants. In order to assure the success of the PSD program, it is important for all of the Offices within the Agency to issue consistent guidance. Similarly, when there is no guidance currently available, please contact Janet Littejohn of my staff at 755-2564 for assistance.

Edward E. Reich

cc: Peter Wycoff (OGC)  
Mike Trutna (OAQPS)