**Section 217.776 Opt-In Process**

The owner or operator of a unit meeting the qualifications of Section 217.774(a) of this Part may submit an application for a budget permit for a budget opt-in unit under Section 217.774(d) of this Part. The Agency will issue or deny a budget permit for such opt-in unit in accordance with Section 217.758 of this Part and the following:

a) The Agency will determine, on an interim basis, the sufficiency of the monitoring plan accompanying the initial application for a budget permit for an opt-in unit. A monitoring plan is sufficient, for purposes of interim review, if the plan contains information demonstrating that the NOx emission rate and heat input of the unit are monitored and reported in accordance with 40 CFR 96, subpart H. A determination of sufficiency shall not be construed as acceptance or approval of that unit's monitoring plan.

b) If the Agency determines that the unit's monitoring plan is sufficient under subsection (a) of this Section and after completion of the monitoring system certification under 40 CFR 96, subpart H, the NOx emission rate and the heat input of the unit shall be monitored and reported in accordance with 40 CFR 96, subpart H, for one full control period during which the monitoring system availability is not less than 90% and during which the unit is in full compliance with any applicable State or federal emissions or emissions-related requirements.

c) Based on the information monitored and reported under subsection (b) of this Section, the unit's baseline heat rate shall be calculated as the unit's total heat input (in mmbtu) for the control period and the unit's baseline NOx emission rate shall be calculated as the unit's total NOx emissions (in lbs) for the control period divided by the unit's baseline heat rate.

(Source: Added at 25 Ill. Reg. 128, effective December 26, 2000)