

AN ANALYSIS OF AIR POLLUTION POLICY FORMATION
AND IMPLEMENTATION: Prospects for the
1982 Clean Air Act Amendments

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The central purpose of this paper is to assess clean air legislation as part of a bureaucratic policy-making process. Acid deposition control is a pressing problem, and proposed responses to this problem are examined in an historical and political context in order to consider the effectiveness of their implementation. This paper looks at legislation and policy-formation as steps toward effective implementation of clean air proposals.

The central hypotheses explored in this paper are as follows: In legislating acid deposition clean-up, value judgement must be weighed equally with scientific evidence to best satisfy environmental, economic, and political interests.

The bureaucratic political system is examined as a means of producing the intended implementation of clean air legislation.

The Clean Air Act is discussed as an example of policy revision and clarification.

Rhode Island's State Implementation Plan is outlined and considered as an example of effective or ineffective implementation.

In light of the analysis of clean air legislation, the regulatory process is examined as a way to improve environmental problems. Alternatives to the regulatory process are discussed, as well as differentiation between long and short term goals of environmental legislation.

The most important evidence used to support these hypotheses is found in Armin Rosenkranz' article entitled "Economic Approaches to Air Pollution Control", Horst Siebert's Regional Environmental Policy- the Economic Issues, and the analysis of implementation found in political science texts.