

2.2.2 *Special Petitions*

Under §75.66, EPA has established a petition process through which affected sources can request relief or variances from certain provisions of Part 75. Each petition must contain sufficient information for the Agency to evaluate the request. At a minimum, the petition must: (1) identify the affected facility and unit(s); (2) explain why the proposed alternative is being suggested instead of the regulatory requirement; (3) provide a description of any equipment or procedures used in the proposed alternative; (4) demonstrate that the proposed alternative is consistent with the purposes of Part 75 and the Clean Air Act; and (5) explain why approving it will not have any significant adverse effects.

The regulatory flexibility provided by the petition process reduces the cost of compliance for many sources and facilitates program implementation. EPA strives for consistency in its petition responses. When a petition is approved (or denied), petitions of a similar nature will also be approved (or denied). The Agency also seeks to avoid setting precedents by answering petitions in a way that will weaken or undermine the Part 75 rule. Finally, when EPA approves a large number of petitions of the same type, this often indicates the need for a rule change. The Agency has revised Part 75 a number of times on this basis.