

### 6.3 How does a unit qualify for LME status ?

To use the LME methodology for a particular gas-fired or oil-fired unit, a certification application must be submitted to EPA and to the appropriate State or local agency, at least 45 days prior to the date on which the methodology will first be used. The essential elements of the certification application, which has both electronic and hard copy portions<sup>34</sup>, are as follows:

- The application must include a complete monitoring plan for the unit.
- For sources that report emissions data on a year-round basis, the application must demonstrate that in each of the three calendar years immediately preceding the year of the application, the SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NO<sub>x</sub> mass emissions from the unit did not exceed the annual threshold limits shown in Table 13 above. And if the unit is in the CAIR ozone season program, it must be demonstrated that in each of the previous three ozone seasons, the NO<sub>x</sub> mass emissions did not exceed 50 tons.

To make the required demonstration(s):

- ☐ Emissions data from historical Part 75 electronic data reports (EDRs) must be used, where these reports are available; or
- ☐ In the absence of historical EDRs, reliable estimates of the unit's emissions for the previous 3 years (or ozone seasons) must be provided. These estimates may be based on records of unit operation, fuel usage, representative emission test data, CEM data, fuel sampling data, etc. Conservative default values may also be used in the calculations (e.g., the "generic" emission rates from Tables LM-1 through LM-3 in §75.19, the unit's maximum rated heat input, etc.)<sup>35</sup>; or
- ☐ For units with less than 3 years (or ozone seasons) of operating history, projected emissions estimates for one or more years may be used, to make up the difference. Projections may also be used if emission controls have been recently installed and the emissions data for one or more of the past 3 years or ozone seasons is not representative of present emission levels.

All projections should be based on the anticipated manner of unit operation, the type(s) of fuel(s) that will be burned, and the expected emission rates; or

- ☐ If a unit cannot qualify for LME status based on its historical emissions and is not eligible to use projected emissions estimates, it is still possible to use the LME methodology if an enforceable permit restriction is accepted, limiting the number of unit operating hours per year (or ozone season), so that the LME emission thresholds will not be exceeded.
- The certification application must also specify the projected date on which the LME methodology will first be used. Note that this projected date may not be arbitrarily selected, because §75.19 requires the LME methodology to be used for all unit operating hours in a calendar year or ozone season. Therefore, the only acceptable start dates for using the LME methodology are these:
  - ☐ For an existing unit that reports emissions data on a year-round basis, the first unit operating hour in a calendar year.
  - ☐ For an existing unit that reports on an ozone season-only basis, the first unit operating hour in an ozone season.
  - ☐ For new Acid Rain Program units, and for new units in the CAIR SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> Trading Programs, at the hour of commencement of commercial operation (as defined in §72.2).
- Finally, the certification application must describe the calculation methodology that will be used to ensure that the unit maintains its LME status. That is:

- ☐ For each emissions parameter (i.e., SO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, or NO<sub>x</sub>), the application must indicate whether the generic default emission rates in Tables LM-1 through LM-3 will be used in the calculations, or whether site-specific default values, determined by emission testing or other acceptable means, will be used; and
- ☐ For heat input, the application must indicate whether the maximum rated unit heat input will be reported for every operating hour or whether the long-term fuel flow methodology, based on records of fuel usage, will be used.

These calculation methods are discussed in greater detail in Section 6.4, below.

Once a complete certification application has been received by EPA and the State, the LME methodology is assigned a provisionally certified status, pending the results of Agency review. The regulatory agencies have a period of 120 days from the receipt of a complete application to review the application and to issue a notice of approval or disapproval to the source. If no such notice is provided by day 120, then the methodology is considered to be “certified by default”. However, note that the LME methodology may not be used prior to the start date indicated in the certification application, even if a notice of approval is issued or if the methodology is certified by default prior to that date.