will provide an information clearinghouse and refer small businesses to State technical experts within the Department who are trained to handle specific questions relevant to achieving compliance with the CAA. In addition, the SBAP will provide for the collection and dissemination of information to small businesses on determining applicable requirements under the ČAÂ, permit issuance, small businesses' rights and obligations, compliance methods, acceptable control technologies, pollution prevention, accidental release prevention and detection, audit programs and procedures, and other matters deemed useful or necessary by the Department. The specific mechanisms for collection and dissemination of information will be developed by the Ombudsman. The SBAP also will consider requests from small business stationary sources for modifications of work practices, technological methods of compliance, or compliance procedures and provide guidance as necessary. The SBAP will utilize, on an as needed basis, the services of other in-state entities with expertise in various aspects related to the PROGRAM.

The dissemination of information to small businesses in South Carolina through the SBAP involves both a proactive and a reactive component. The Ombudsman will actively advertise the SBAP to ensure the regulated communities are aware of their obligations under the CAA. The reactive component takes place after the regulated community recognizes that there is or could be some obligation on their part to comply with the CAA. The Department is committed to supporting the proactive component of the program through newspapers, radio, and TV announcements and advertisements. Public service announcements will be used to the maximum extent possible. Informational packets will be distributed. Other avenues for disseminating information will be utilized through the Secretary of State's office, the South Carolina State Development Board, the Environmental Quality Control Advisory Board, the Federal Small Business Assistance Office, the Chambers of Commerce's Technical Committee, the General Assembly's Joint Liaison on Small Business, other appropriate State offices, public hearings, and by the identification of potentially affected sources by the Department. Reactive components of the SBAP include the installation of a toll-free hot line to facilitate contacting the Department and the designation of the point-of-contact

on the Department's staff to handle inquiries. The Ombudsman will be the primary point-of-contact who will either handle the question or direct the inquirer to the appropriate source within the Department for assistance. Other sources of information include the following: public hearings on rule changes, control technology guidelines, EPA's Control Technology Center, the **Emissions Measurement Technical** Information Center, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Hotline, EPA Regional Offices, other state's air programs and industry and trade groups.

The SBAP will assist small businesses in determining applicable requirements and will provide information on permit issuance, compliance methods, acceptable control technologies. pollution prevention, accidental release prevention and detection, and audit programs. The SBAP will inform small businesses about their rights under the CAA; assist in the preparation of guidance documents and ensure that technical and compliance information is available to the small business community and the general public; answer regulatory questions raised by small businesses and provide them with clean air compliance information; obtain information and counsel from other appropriate state agencies; and participate and sponsor meetings and conferences on air quality requirements, pollution prevention, and other regulatory issues.

The Department will maintain lists of environmental consulting companies that perform auditing services and will make the lists available upon request. For those sources unable to afford consultants, the Department will conduct a consultation audit to assess the need for control measures and/or a permit to operate.

A small business may petition the Department to modify work practices, compliance methods or implementation schedules in accordance with established procedures as described in the SIP.

2. Ombudsman

Section 507(a)(3) of the CAA requires the designation of a state office to serve as the Ombudsman for small business stationary sources. South Carolina has appointed a Small Business Ombudsman and established the Office of the Ombudsman within the Department of Environmental Quality Control. Through that office, the Ombudsman will have direct access to the Governor, the Commissioner, the Chief of the Air Pollution Program, and other state and Federal agencies. The Ombudsman will have the necessary autonomy to function independently of the air program.

3. Compliance Advisory Panel

Section 507(e) of the CAA requires the State to establish a CAP that must include two members selected by the Governor who are not owners or representatives of owners of small businesses. Four members will be selected by the state legislature who are owners, or represent owners, of small businesses. The majority and minority leadership in both the house and the senate shall each appoint one member of the panel. One member will be selected by the head of the agency in charge of the Air Pollution Permit Program. South Carolina established a CAP with a membership consistent with the aforementioned CAA requirements. The SBAP will serve as the secretariat to the CAP in the development and dissemination or reports, advisory opinions, and other information.

The duties of the CAP include: providing advisory opinions to the EPA and the Department regarding the effectiveness of the state PROGRAM and the difficulties encountered by small businesses in meeting the mandates of the CAA; reviewing information for small business stationary air pollution sources to assure such information is understandable to the lay person; and to make periodic reports to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Equal Access to Justice Act.

4. Source Eligibility

South Carolina has incorporated section 507(c)(1) and defined a Small Business Stationary Source as a source that:

(1) Is owned or operated by a person who employs 100 or fewer individuals;

(2) Is a small business concern as defined in the Small Business Act;(3) Is not a major stationary source;

and

(4) Does not emit 50 tons per year (tpy) of any regulated pollutant and emits less than 75 tpy of all regulated pollutants.

South Carolina has established the following mechanisms as required by section 507: (1) A process for ascertaining the eligibility of a source to receive assistance under the PROGRAM, including an evaluation of a source's eligibility using the criteria in section 507(c)(1) of the CAA; (2) a process for public notice and comment on grants of