

permits for both new and existing sources of air pollution. Allows for the issuance of operating permits after notice in a certain procedure. Allows for application forms and procedures, time frames and certification for compliance. Allows for monitoring and reporting payment of fees, compliance schedules, site access, all of the different requirements of the federal law. And it also allows for air quality standards for all of the different kinds of air pollutants that must be dealt with under the federal law. The bill further provides for the position of public advocate. The federal law requires that there be a public advocate to relate the activities under this particular law to the people who are being regulated. And, in particular, the bill requires the setting up of a small business compliance advisory panel. And that particular panel is required to be set up by the fall of this year which is the reason that we wish to proceed with the bill now. Most of the things that need to be set up, most of the mechanisms that need to be set up under the Clean Air Act can go into place or will go into place a year from this fall. If we wait one year, then the authorization to DEC to proceed to set up this regulatory framework will not be given to them until just a few months before some of the major regulatory programs are to go into effect or to be set up. So we want very much to give them the authority this year if there is some fine-tuning needed next year, we can certainly do that. But the small business compliance advisory panel, that is required under federal time frames to be set up yet this fall. So we really need the authority to do that. They need the authority to do that. Now all this regulation that's being done under the requirements of the federal law is being financed through annual emissions fees of \$25 per ton per pollutant up to 4,000 tons per year and then the department may index the fee each year as needed. The amendments were included in this bill to...to...at the request of the different utility companies, to be sure that only the costs of regulation, and only the costs of regulation of this particular program could be financed through this emissions fee. Reasonable costs are defined to include, again a definition at the request of the utilities, to include overhead equipment, application review, enforcing permits, monitoring, and a number of other items in response to the utilities request to tie down more specifically exactly what this fee would be used for. And then the department sets up procedures for identifying pollutants and for dealing with the utilities. Basically, I speak in terms of utilities, because by and large the fees that are being paid, under this act, will be paid...the largest