



# Regulatory Overview - Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers

## *Fertilizer Industry Round Table*

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# Background

I am not a regulator, but –

“I am a charter member of the AAPFCO taskforce on slow release fertilizers formed in 1995”

A joint effort of industry and regulators addressing current issues



# Background Cont.

- Many aspects of efficiency based on users perspective
- From a regulatory perspective we need to focus on products, not practices



# What Is An “Enhanced Efficiency” Fertilizer?

*AAPFCO definition approved as tentative 2008*

*T-70 - Enhanced Efficiency is a term describing fertilizer products with characteristics that allow increased plant uptake and reduce the potential of nutrient losses to the environment such as gaseous losses, leaching, or runoff, as compared to an appropriate reference product*

*EE is an umbrella term to cover products affecting nutrient release as well as nutrient availability*





# Goals Of The Taskforce

- Must be able to be used as a regulatory method- it must be relatively fast!
- Uses common laboratory & analytical equipment
- Does not change claims of current products
- Can be used to verify label claims of product longevity statements (lasts three months, 200 days...)
- Measure release, not what fails to release
- Should look at N and also P, K, Sec. & Minors
- Correlated to soil (biologically active ) method



# What Has Changed Since 1995

- A few new products
- More claims
- Environmental drivers
  - CRP
  - Hypoxia
  - NOx
- USDA use of the term “Enhanced Efficiency”
- A methods for determination are almost ready





# A Tool For Regulation

- The method under development meets the goals the taskforce set 12 years ago
- It offers a level playing field for most products
- Others will need direct detection
- Education can soon begin for those products that can be characterized by the methods
- Currently “EE” products are a small (<5%) part of the agricultural market
- These products are just one tool to increase overall nutrient efficiency