How Much Is Too Much To Pay To Meet Standards for Smog?

By GINA KOLATA

As economists and environment- alists ponder the question of how much the nation is willing to spend red-

cucing smog, they find that one of the 

conundrums they would once have 

considered an obvious one is now 

problematic. 

The problem is finance, the major 

component of the nation’s efforts 

to control smog.

In the past, industry could 

buy its way to compliance, but 

today, as the costs of controlling 

smog soar, industry is finding it 

harder to do so.

The financial burden of 

control efforts is 

now posing a major barrier 

to compliance.

Industry has had to 

face up to the fact that 

the costs of controlling 

smog are rising steeply.

For example, the cost of 

installing new pollution control 

equipment is now estimated to be 

between $500 and $1,000 per 

ton of emissions.

This means that even 

small changes in emissions 

can result in large increases in 

the cost of compliance.

The result is that industry 

is finding it increasingly 

difficult to meet 

the new standards.

Some companies have 

found ways to reduce their 

emissions, but others have 

been forced to look for 

alternative solutions.

A major problem is 

that the new standards 

are very stringent.

For example, the new 

standard for nitrogen oxide 

emissions is 1.0 parts per million (ppm), 

compared to the old standard of 10 ppm.

This means that industry 

will have to develop new 

technologies to meet 

the new standard.

For example, some 

companies have 

developed new 

catalysts that can 

reduce nitrogen oxide emissions 

by up to 90%.

However, these 

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