



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 8**  
**999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET- SUITE 300**  
**DENVER, CO 80202-2466**  
**Phone 800-227-8917**  
**<http://www.epa.gov/region08>**

Ref: 8P-AR

JUL 20 2004

Honorable Judy H. Martz  
Governor of Montana  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Governor Martz:

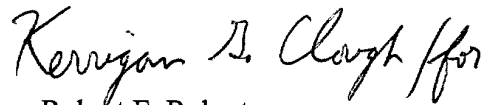
On June 29, 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded to your recommendation for PM<sub>2.5</sub> attainment and nonattainment areas. In that same letter EPA acknowledged Montana's recommendation for specific PM<sub>2.5</sub> attainment/unclassifiable boundary areas and committed to respond to your request shortly. This letter is in response to Montana's recommended PM<sub>2.5</sub> attainment/unclassifiable boundaries.

EPA has reviewed your February 25, 2004 PM<sub>2.5</sub> attainment/unclassifiable area boundary recommendations. Consistent with section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), this letter is to inform you that EPA intends to make modifications to your PM<sub>2.5</sub> attainment/unclassifiable boundary recommendations. At this time, EPA intends to identify the entire State of Montana as in attainment for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS), with the exception of Lincoln County, Montana. We believe it is premature to consider the State's recommended subdivision of attainment area boundaries into many smaller areas, which could affect tracking of an increment that has not been established. If and when EPA does consider establishing a PM<sub>2.5</sub> increment, EPA will work with your State to analyze the appropriateness of such alternative attainment area boundaries.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with Montana as we work to finalize the designations for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. If you would like to provide additional information regarding our intended modification of the attainment/unclassifiable area boundary, or why such modifications would be inappropriate, please provide this information by September 1, 2004. We appreciate your efforts and will review any future supporting information that Montana wishes to submit. It is our goal to have final designations promulgated by November of 2004. Please note that EPA will be addressing Indian country designations through a separate concurrent process with the Tribes in Montana.

Should you have any questions, I invite you to contact me at our toll free number: 1-800-227-8917. Your staff or that of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality may also wish to contact Richard Long, Director of our Air and Radiation Program, at (303) 312-6005, or Libby Faulk, Air and Radiation Program staff, at (303) 312-6083.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Roberts".

Robert E. Roberts  
Regional Administrator

cc: Jan Sensibaugh, Director, MT DEQ  
Don Vidrine, Bureau Chief, MT DAQ  
Trista Glazier, MT DAQ  
Ron Anderson, Lincoln County Health Department  
John Wardell, MT EPA Office