

Gina McCarthy
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 ELM STREET HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

PHONE: 860-424-3001



December 14, 2007

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Recommended Designations for the 24-Hour $PM_{2.5}$ National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Dear Administrator Johnson:

I am writing to provide you with Connecticut's recommendations for attainment designations and geographic boundaries for the revised 24-hour fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS), which became effective on December 18, 2006. Section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) provides up to one year after adoption of new or revised NAAQS for states to submit recommendations identifying areas that violate or contribute to nearby violations of the revised NAAQS. Consistent with CAA 107(d)(1) and EPA guidance, Connecticut recommends that Fairfield and New Haven Counties be designated as nonattainment for the revised 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. The geographic area covered by these counties is identical to the Connecticut portion of the existing New York City multi-state $PM_{2.5}$ nonattainment area that was established under the annual 1997 $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. The remainder of Connecticut should be designated as in attainment with respect to the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

As described more fully in the enclosed technical support document, measured design values for the three-year period ending in 2006 indicate that violations of the $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard in Connecticut are limited to coastal monitors located along the Interstate-95 corridor in Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Due to the prevailing meteorology, the vast majority of high $PM_{2.5}$ event days occur when local emissions from urban areas along the Interstate-95 corridor augment transported $PM_{2.5}$ and precursor emissions from states located to the west and southwest of Connecticut. Emissions from the remaining six counties in Connecticut contribute very little to the violating monitors.

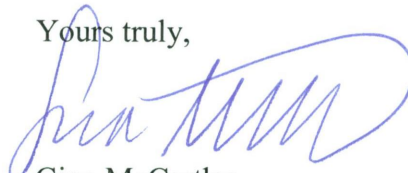
A variety of state and federal control measures are being implemented in Connecticut and in upwind states that will result in lower future levels of measured $PM_{2.5}$. Federal programs include the Clean Air Interstate Rule, emission standards for new light duty motor vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, and non-road engines and requirements for low sulfur mobile source fuels. In addition, Connecticut remains committed to expanding efforts to facilitate the installation of

Honorable Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator
December 14, 2007
Page 2 of 2

retrofit controls on the existing fleet of school and transit buses, municipal trucks and construction equipment and other diesel engines. Connecticut is also enhancing our idling reduction efforts, pursuing regionally lower sulfur heating oil and developing innovative PM control strategies.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. Please contact Anne Gobin at 860-424-3026 with any questions regarding the supporting documentation. We look forward to working with you on the completion of nonattainment designations and the development of appropriate strategies to attain the new fine particle standard.

Yours truly,



Gina McCarthy
Commissioner

Enclosure (Technical Support Document)

cc: R. Varney (EPA Region I)
D. Conroy (EPA Region I)
A. Marrella (CT DEP)
A. Gobin (CTDEP)