



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

November 10, 1998

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Dr. Philip K. Hopke
Clarkson University
Box 5810
8 Clarkson Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13699-5810

Dear Dr. Hopke:

This letter transmits primary source and background documents that will be the focus of the November 30, 1998 of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Technical Subcommittee for Fine Particle Monitoring. The first attachment provides an overview of the major components of the national $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring programs. As you know, in 1996 the Subcommittee provided review and comment of the Federal Reference Method (FRM) and guidance to States on the location and number of monitors (Attachments 5 and 6). In that review, Subcommittee members made suggestions that national networks include measurements that go beyond the FRM, to include chemical composition and continuous instruments. These additional measurements are embodied in two major components of the total $PM_{2.5}$ measurement program, the chemical speciation program (Attachment 2) and the "supersites" program (Attachments 3 and 4).

We are now requesting that the Subcommittee provide review and consultation on these two program components. As described in the attachments, the chemical speciation program has benefitted from an existing expert panel and plans have progressed to the point where we believe the Subcommittee can provide a timely review of this program, which is critical to developing an information base for State Implementation Plans (SIPs) initially due in 2005. Because the resources for this program are administered by grants to the States (Attachment 9), your advice and comments will be relevant both to EPA and State plans for this program. Plans and schedules for the Supersites program have been modified to accommodate the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences to permit better integration with priority research. We request consultation on the overall conceptualization and direction this program is headed, including more specific comments on the proposed first stage of the program. We anticipate continued consultation with the Subcommittee as this program is developed and implemented.

The list of attachments includes:

Attachment 1.	<i>Overview of National PM_{2.5} Monitoring Networks.</i>
Attachment 2.	<i>Chemical Speciation guidance (July, 1998 draft).</i>
Attachment 3.	Supersites workshop Report: <i>Report of the PM Measurements Research Workshop.</i>
Attachment 4.	EPA Supersites concept paper reflecting inputs from workshop Report and 9/24 NAS meeting: <i>Draft Supersites Conceptual Plan.</i>
Attachment 5.	EPA letter to 1996 CASAC Technical Subcommittee for Fine Particle Monitoring.
Attachment 6.	CASAC summary letter of 1996 CASAC Technical Subcommittee for Fine Particle Monitoring.
Attachment 7.	<i>Recommendations of the Expert Panel on the EPA Speciation Network.</i>
Attachment 8.	Draft Experimental design of Speciation Sampler Intercomparison Study
Attachment 9.	<i>Grant Guidance for Fine Particulate Ambient Air Monitoring Programs</i>
Attachment 10.	<i>PM_{2.5} Monitoring Implementation Plan Executive Summary.</i>
Attachment 11.	July 1997 Federal Register Notice containing the Monitoring Regulation.
Attachment 12.	EPA's PM Research Overview.

As noted above, the first four attachments are the principal documents for this meeting. The additional attachments are provided as background. Staff from the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and the Office of Research and Development will make presentations at the meeting that will provide an overview that will include additional developments from ongoing plans for integrating research with the monitoring program. We appreciate you and the rest of Subcommittee's willingness to participate in this review and look forward to working with you during this exciting period of monitoring implementation. Should you have any questions, please contact me (919-541-4650).

Sincerely,
 (Original signed by Richard Scheffe)
 Richard D. Scheffe
 Leader
 Monitoring and Quality Assurance Group

Attachments

cc: CASAC Technical Subcommittee
 John Bachmann
 Bill Hunt
 John Vandenberg
 Jim Vickery

Copies of attachments 1-4 and 7-11 are available electronically on AMTIC at www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/amticpm.html in the following sections:

Copies of attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 are in the “CASAC” section.

Copies of attachments 2 and 7 are in the “Speciation” section.

Copies of attachments 9 and 10 are in the “Implementation” section.

Copies of attachment 11 is in the “Federal Register” section.

Attachments 5, 6, and 12 are available in hard copy form.

Hard copies of the attachments can also be obtained by calling Brenda Millar at 919-541-4036.