

March 3, 2004

Honorable Donald L. Carcieri
Governor of Rhode Island
State House
Executive Chambers
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Carcieri:

Thank you for your letter forwarding Rhode Island's recommendations on air quality designations for the national health based standards for fine particles. We received your letter on February 18, 2004.

Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their community. We intend to carefully review the recommendations and work with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management in determining final designations. The EPA must make its final official designation decisions for fine particles by December 31, 2004.

We look forward to working with Rhode Island in the coming months on designations for the fine particle standards. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Tim Williamson, Acting Manager of the Air Quality Planning Unit, at 617-918-1099.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

cc: Frederick J. Vincent, Interim Director, RI DEM
Stephen Majkut, OAR, RI DEM