

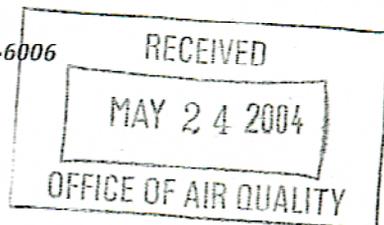


STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 7, 2004



L. John Iani, Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Iani:

Enclosed on behalf of the Governor is an update to Washington State's recommendations for designations for National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter (commonly referred to as PM_{2.5}). Our February 4, 2004, recommendations included a commitment to submit a recommended designation for Yakima County in April 2004. This letter fulfills that commitment and affirms Washington State's previous recommendations.

Washington State did not include Yakima County in its February 2004 recommendations, because Yakima did not have the three calendar years of monitoring data required for evaluating compliance with the PM_{2.5} standard until the end of 2003. Quality-assured monitoring data for 2001-2003 show that Yakima attains both annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards.

Now that 2001-2003 monitoring data is available, Washington State reviewed the attainment status of all other monitored counties. Since EPA uses the most recent data for designations, EPA's December 2004, PM_{2.5} designations will be based on 2001-2003 data. Washington State's February 2004 recommendations were based on 2000-2002 monitoring data. The 2001-2003 data affirm the earlier recommendations.

The state of Washington recommends that the entire state, except for tribal lands, be designated "attainment/unclassifiable." Monitoring performed during 2001-2003 in Clark, Thurston, Pierce, King, Snohomish, Whatcom, Yakima, Benton and Spokane counties shows that these counties attained both annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. All other areas of the state have not been monitored, and thus are unclassifiable, as no monitoring data is available for recommending a designation. Washington State's recommendations recognize EPA's long-standing practice of not distinguishing between areas that attain the standard and areas that lack monitoring data by the use of the designation attainment/unclassifiable. Our updated recommendation is being submitted in both written and electronic forms. Design values and supporting information for all counties, including Yakima, are found in the enclosures.



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May 7, 2004

Page 2

Consistent with federal and state policy, we recognize that tribal lands are not affected because tribes have authority over air quality within the boundaries of their reservations.

We are pleased to report once again that Washington State's air quality is good.

Should you have any questions about our recommendations, please contact me at (360) 407-7001 or Doug Schneider of the Air Quality Program at (360) 407-6874.

Sincerely,



Linda Hoffman
Director

Enclosure w/diskette

cc: Mary Burg, Department of Ecology
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Local Air Authority Directors
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