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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 28 2004

Mr. Carl Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Air and Waste Management
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your July 21, 2004 letter regarding EPA's PM2.5 designation recommendations. We recognize New York's need to gain a timely understanding of the technical basis for EPA's recommendations. My staff has already begun to respond directly to some of New York's questions. They have scheduled a conference call with your staff during the week of July 26, 2004 for the purpose of fully explaining EPA's technical rationale; and they have scheduled a follow-up meeting in your offices on August 5, at which time we will undertake to answer any remaining questions.

My staff has advised me that some of the information you requested in your letter was not germane to EPA's considerations in developing its recommendations on PM2.5 designations. Nevertheless, we will attempt to provide you with responses to those requests as quickly as possible.

You asked for additional time to consider EPA's recommendations. EPA Administrator Leavitt has stated publically that EPA intends to make its final decision by November 17, 2004. While we do not expect that we will be able to provide New York with additional time after September 1, 2004 to submit its comments, I believe that this schedule provides sufficient time to consider the matter fully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Mugdan".

Walter Mugdan, Director
Division of Environmental Planning & Protection

cc: David Shaw, NYSDEC
James Ralston, NYSDEC
Elizabeth Bartlett, NYSDEC