



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Phone 800-227-8917

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

JUN 28 2004

Ref: 8P-AR

Darrell Martin, President
Gros Ventre & Assiniboine Tribes
Fort Belknap Community Council
RR 1, Box 66
Harlem, Montana 59526

Dear President Martin:

Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. These tiny particles – about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair – have been scientifically linked to serious human health problems. Their ability to be suspended in air for long periods of time makes them a public health threat far beyond the source of emission. An important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air deals with reducing levels of this fine-particle or PM_{2.5} pollution.

We have reviewed the air quality data, emissions data, and other related information for your area and consistent with Section 107(d)(1) of the CAA, this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate your entire Reservation as in attainment at this time. This means that across your Reservation, all areas meet the more protective, health-based fine particle standard. That is truly good news for the residents of your Reservation.

We commit to continue working with you to not only maintain, but also continue the progress that has been made toward clean air. You will hear from us again in November when EPA makes its final decisions on PM_{2.5} designations determining those areas that meet or do not meet the fine particle standards.

The EPA has made the reduction of fine particle pollution a critical element of a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the eastern U.S. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air.



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We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM_{2.5} standard. Should you have any questions, I invite you to contact me toll free at 1-800-227-8917. You or your staff may also contact Richard Long, Director of our Air and Radiation Program, at (303) 312-6005, Monica Morales at (303) 312-6936, or Libby Faulk at (303) 312-6083, Air and Radiation Program staff, with any questions concerning the designation recommendation for your Reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Roberts".

Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator

cc: Ina Nez Perce (Environmental Protection Program Manager, Gros Ventre & Assiniboine Tribes)
Kermit 'Dale' Snow (Air Program Coordinator, Gros Ventre & Assiniboine Tribes)