



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>

Ref: 8P-AR

JUN 28 2004

Howard Richards, Sr., Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Dear Chairman Richards:

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.

In February, your Tribe submitted its recommended boundaries for PM_{2.5} attainment and nonattainment areas. After a thorough review of your recommendations, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finds that your entire Reservation is 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.

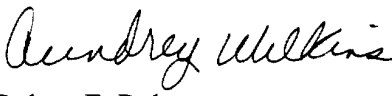
The EPA has made the reduction of fine particle pollution a critical element of a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the eastern U.S. These 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.

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,


for Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator

cc: Virgil Frazier (Environmental Programs Director, Southern Ute Indian Tribe)