



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

OFFICE OF
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

AUG 15 2008

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas
State Capitol
200 SW 10th Avenue, Ste. 212S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Sebelius:

Thank you for your recommendations on the status of fine-particle (PM_{2.5}) pollution throughout Kansas. Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms like coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine-particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine-particle pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the August 2007 letter submitting Kansas's recommendations on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. We have also reviewed the technical information submitted to support Kansas's recommendations. We appreciate the effort Kansas has made to develop this supporting information. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that the EPA agrees that Johnson, Linn, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sumner, and Wyandotte Counties should be designated attainment. We also believe the remainder of the state should also be designated attainment.

The EPA has taken steps to reduce fine-particle pollution across the country, such as the Clean Diesel Program, which will dramatically reduce emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines. In addition your state's continued implementation of the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS will help reduce unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution for the 24-Hour PM_{2.5} standard.

We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} standards by December 18, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM_{2.5} standards.

Sincerely,

John B. Askew
Regional Administrator

cc: Roderick Bremby, Secretary, KDHE
Rick Brunetti, Director, Bureau of Air and Radiation, KDHE