



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

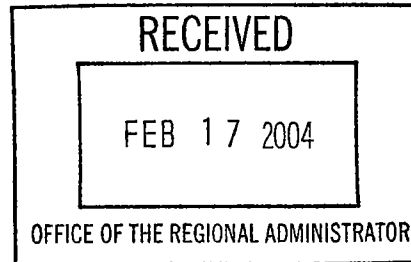
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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



February 13, 2003

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
One Congress Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Varney:

In response to your May 1, 2003 request, I am writing to recommend that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designate Massachusetts as "attainment/unclassifiable" under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter (also known as PM_{2.5}).

This recommendation is based on EPA's April 2003 guidance, indicating that the "attainment/unclassifiable" designation is appropriate for areas where monitors have insufficient data, but where the data that is available supports attainment of the standards. A summary table showing the levels of fine particulate matter in Massachusetts is attached to this letter.

To improve data collection, the Department of Environmental Protection filed a plan with your office detailing the steps that are being taken to improve future data capture. Massachusetts is committed to improving data capture in the coming year to ensure accurate evaluation of air quality in the Commonwealth.

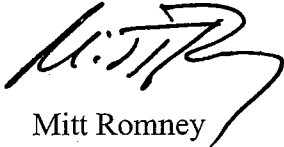
I would like to take this opportunity to encourage EPA to work with upwind non-attainment areas in reducing their fine particulate matter emissions, not only for the health of their residents, but also the health of residents in the Commonwealth. Much of the fine particulate matter measured in Massachusetts originates from sources outside the Commonwealth. Even at concentrations meeting the current standards, fine particulate matter contributes to acid rain and haze problems and affects the health of our citizens.

To better protect public health and the environment, as well as to ensure room for continued economic growth in Massachusetts and a level playing field for our economy, the federal government and other states must bear a fair share of the responsibility for controlling pollution. Massachusetts will continue to aggressively control its sources of fine particulate matter into the future through a variety of programs.

If you require further information in support of this recommendation, please contact Commissioner Robert Golledge at the Department of Environmental Protection (617.292.5856). An electronic copy of this material is also being provided to your staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve environmental quality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitt Romney", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mitt Romney

PM2.5 Levels in MA 2000 - 2003

Values in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

City	Monitor Location	Annual Average Levels				Daily Average Levels			
		Most Recent 3-Year Means Annual Standard = 15.0	2000	2001	2002*	2003	Most Recent 3-Year Means Daily Standard = 65	2000	2001

Existing Sites		14.1	13.52	16.58	12.96	12.81	33	29.5	39.7	29.6	29.7
Boston	Kenmore										
Boston	Charlestown	13.0	13.90	13.20	13.40	12.44	42	38.2	34	50.8	42.3
Boston	Roxbury	12.4	13.12	14.69	11.20	11.40	32	31.9	32.3	33	30.6
Boston	North End	14.2	15.80	16.04	13.08	13.62	32	35.2	31.2	29.8	35.5
Brockton	Post Office **	11.2	10.55	12.15	11.64	9.86	35	25.7	31.9	37.2	34.5
Chicopee	Westover AFB	10.8	10.16	11.13	10.94	10.27	34	29.4	32.6	36.8	32.6
Fall River	Fire Dept	11.6	11.70	13.34	11.12	10.21	33	28.8	37	29.5	32.4
Haverhill	Consentino School	10.3	11.00	12.58	9.38	9.01	38	27.3	27.2	51.8	34.6
Lawrence	WES	11.1	9.92	11.10	10.37	11.89	29	19.1	32	26.8	29.2
Lynn	Water Treatment Plant	10.6	11.35	12.13	9.83	9.84	44	27.2	31.5	52.9	47.6
Pittsfield	Federal Bld.	12.0	11.80	13.35	11.44	11.07	36	28.8	33.8	36.2	37.2
Springfield	Liberty Street **	13.4	13.80	13.84	13.57	12.89	48	36.7	42.6	56	46.3
Springfield	Union News	12.2	-	-	12.81	11.53	37	-	-	37.1	37.5
Worcester	Fire Dept. ****	11.9	11.98	12.81	11.70	11.33	39	32.5	36.4	46.8	34.1

Closed Sites		9.9	9.79	10.64	9.40	-	25	21.1	26	27.3	-
Fitchburg	State College										
Lowell	High School	10.6	9.85	11.34	10.64	-	28	27.4	27.2	29.2	-
New Bedford	YMCA	11.7	11.96	12.67	10.38	-	31	27.6	39.3	26.4	-
Quincy	Fire Dept.	11.4	9.33	13.01	11.76	-	35	26.4	30.4	48.1	-
Springfield	East Columbus Ave ***	15.77	15.77	-	-	-	See Note: does not meet siting criteria	37.2	-	-	-
Stow	U.S. Military Reservation	9.5	8.77	10.57	9.19	-	27	26.8	24.8	29.9	-
Ware	Quabbin	8.8	8.81	9.23	8.27	-	25	25.2	25.6	24.3	-
Worcester	YWCA (recently reopened)	12.0	11.81	13.21	10.87	-	31	26.6	33.1	33.7	-

See notes next page.

Notes for Table

* Excludes extraordinary values associated with the July 2002 Quebec forest fire event.

** Meets data capture standard for all quarters

*** The East Columbus Avenue monitor in Springfield was closed and the instruments relocated to the nearby Springfield Union News Building in 2001 when DEP and EPA staff realized that a new ventilation system that had been added to a building adjacent to the site was likely impacting the monitors. This ventilation system, along with other changes in the site environment, caused the monitoring site to no longer meet EPA siting criteria. Monitored concentrations at the new location have been more consistent with those collected at the other Springfield site on Liberty Street. Therefore, data from the East Columbus Avenue site should not be considered in the designation process.

**** Closed in October 2003. Data for the 4th quarter of 2003 were not available for the Worcester Fire Department site because the City of Worcester required that DEP vacate the site in October 2003 to make way for new construction. DEP found a suitable replacement site at the Massachusetts Highway Department's facility on Summer Street. The new Summer Street site, however, was not able to be brought on-line before DEP had to vacate the Fire Department site. To cover the interim period until the new site was available, DEP reactivated a closed site at the Worcester YWCA that is near to the Fire Department site. The data from the YWCA site have been substituted for the 4th quarter to provide a full year of data from which to calculate annual and daily levels for 2003 for Worcester. The values in Table 1 reflect this substitution. This site would have likely met data capture requirements had it not been forced to close.