

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2004

L. John Iani, Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle WA 98101

Subject: PM_{2.5} Designations for the State of Idaho

Dear Mr. Iani,

I am responding to your May, 2003 request that Idaho submit area designation recommendations for attainment status with respect to the PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

Three complete calendar years of Federal Reference Method (FRM) PM_{2.5} data have been evaluated for thirteen monitoring sites in the State of Idaho. **Data assessment for these sites concludes that all monitored airsheds be designated as attainment/unclassifiable for both the annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.** The presumptive boundaries for area designations are defined in EPA guidance. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boundaries are defined by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). For rural areas the presumption is that the designation will be made for the entire county in which the monitor is located. **The rest of the state should be designated as attainment/unclassifiable for both the annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.** Idaho's PM_{2.5} network was designed to assess population exposure to the highest expected ambient concentrations. Because these monitors indicate attainment of the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, then all other areas in the state can be presumed as attainment/unclassifiable. **Idaho is recommending attainment/unclassifiable designations for these areas:**

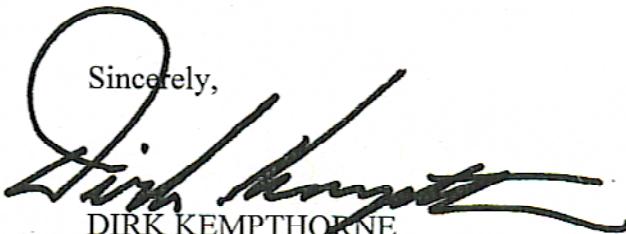
- Boise City-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area, including:
 - Ada County
 - Boise County
 - Canyon County
 - Gem County
 - Owyhee County
- Coeur d' Alene, ID Metropolitan Statistical Area,
 - Kootenai County

- Lewiston, ID-WA Metropolitan Statistical Area,
-Nez Perce County
- Idaho Falls, ID Metropolitan Statistical Area,
-Bonneville County
-Jefferson County
- Pocatello, ID Metropolitan Statistical Area,
-Bannock County
-Power County
- Twin Falls County
- Bonner County
- Shoshone County
- Rest of state

In the future, should it be necessary to redesignate an area as “nonattainment”, we intend to evaluate the appropriate EPA guidance and any other relevant considerations to determine presumptive boundaries for that area, rather than default to MSA or County boundaries.

If EPA has any further questions or concerns, please coordinate through Martin Bauer, Air Quality Division Administrator of DEQ (208/ 373-0552).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Kempthorne", written over a large, circular scribble.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor