



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

09 MAR 2004

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Governor of Nebraska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848

Dear Governor Johanns:

Thank you for your recent letter of February 12, 2004, forwarding Nebraska's recommendations on air quality designations for the national health based standards for fine particles also known as (PM_{2.5}).

Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their community. Your recommendation of attainment is based on air quality PM_{2.5} data from 2000-2003. We intend to carefully review your recommendation with up to date PM_{2.5} ambient data in determining final designations. Final designations for PM_{2.5} will be made by the United States Environmental Protection Agency by December 31, 2004.

We look forward to working with Nebraska in the coming months on designations for the fine particle standards. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call William A. Spratlin, Director of the Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, who may be reached at (913) 551-7401.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Gulliford".

James B. Gulliford
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Mike Linder
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Ms. Shelley Kaderly
Air Quality Division, NDEQ