



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196  
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor

January 14, 2008

Robert Varney, Regional Administrator  
EPA – New England, Region I  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Varney:

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, I am hereby recommending that Rhode Island be classified as in attainment of the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), which was promulgated on October 17, 2006. The revision retained the annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS of 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and reduced the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS from 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration, averaged over three years.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> was monitored at five sites in Rhode Island during the most recent 3-year period, 2004 – 2006. For that period, the 3-year averages of the annual mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at the five monitoring sites were as follows:

	Prairie Ave. Providence	Eddy St. Providence	Francis Schl E Providence	Vernon St. Pawtucket	Alton Jones W Greenwich	NAAQS
Annual Mean	10.7	11.1	9.9	12.0	7.9	15
98 <sup>th</sup> Percentile 24-Hour	31	28	28	29	27	35

Since the monitored PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at all five of the sites are below the revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, I am recommending at this time that the entire State of Rhode Island be classified as an attainment area for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

Robert Varney  
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Note, however, that, although Rhode Island's air quality does not violate the revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, levels of fine particulate matter in the State are often high enough to cause a health risk to residents. In an October 2005 letter, the New England environmental commissioners called upon the EPA to adopt a 24-hour NAAQS of 30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and an annual average NAAQS of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub> to protect the health of sensitive members of the population, including children, the elderly and people with cardiac and respiratory diseases.

Rhode Island's monitored PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceed the limits recommended by the commissioners. In particular, the recommended 24-hour limit was exceeded at one or more of Rhode Island's monitors on 23 days during the 2004 - 2006 period. Therefore, although Rhode Island is attaining the current PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, we continue to be concerned about the effects of this pollutant on the health of our State's residents.

If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact Barbara Morin at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Office of Air Resources at (401) 222-4700, extension 7012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor