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THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

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cc: *Mugda*
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Casey
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HENRY
GAVIN

August 13, 2007

Mr. Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Subject: Area Designations for the Revised 24-Hour Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

On December 18, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the national ambient air standards (NAAQS) for the 24-hour standard for PM_{2.5} (particles less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter) from 65 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) to 35 ug/m³. The United States Virgin Islands agrees with the revision and will ensure compliance with the new standards.

Pursuant to Section 107(d) (1) (A) of the Clean Air Act, the United States Virgin Islands is proposing that it be designated as an attainment area for the revised PM_{2.5} standard. Historical data shows that the territory's air quality has been of a high-grade as it relates to fine particle (PM_{2.5}) pollution under the standard of 65 ug/m³. Under the revised standard of 35 ug/m³, PM_{2.5} data concentrations are also substantially lower than the revised standard under normal circumstances and are slightly elevated during exceptional events. Those events include volcanic dust migration from Montserrat and Saharan dust. From the effective date of the revised standard through March 31, 2007, the average PM_{2.5} concentration for the territory of the Virgin Islands was calculated to be approximately 6.5 ug/m³.

EPA REGION 2
CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL OFFICE

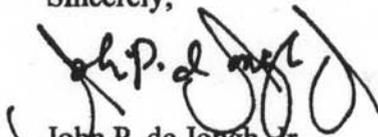
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The Department of Planning and Natural Resources, through its Division of Environmental Protection's Air Quality Management Program, has been monitoring and will continue to monitor the quality of air in the Virgin Islands as part of our statutory mandates.

You may contact Robert S. Mathes, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, at (340) 774-3320 or (340) 773-1082, with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

cc: Robert S. Mathes, Commissioner, DPNR