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ADRIAN M. FENTY
MAYOR

December 18, 2007

Donald S. Welsh
Regional Administrator (3RA00)
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Welsh:

On behalf of the District of Columbia (DC), I thank you for the opportunity to make recommendations for the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution non-attainment areas. In the recent three-year period (2004-2006), DC's ambient air monitoring stations recorded exceedances of the revised daily national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for PM_{2.5} of 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³). The 2006 design value for the District was 37 ug/ m³. Based on the monitored air quality data and the 2006 design value, in accordance with Section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act, I am recommending that the entire District be designated as a non-attainment area under the new daily PM_{2.5} standard.

The PM_{2.5} pollution sources in DC contribute about six percent of the total emissions in the Washington DC-MD-VA metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Because of the regional nature of PM_{2.5} pollution, I am recommending that the attainment area for the PM_{2.5} daily NAAQS should include at a minimum the entire Washington DC-MD-VA MSA. This recommendation was based on the nine-factor assessment suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I also support the idea of using a wider Washington DC-Baltimore, MD-VA-WV consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA) where the CMSA will determine the attainment or non-attainment designation while the state implementation plans (SIPs) are developed within the MSA boundaries. In urban areas such as the Washington DC-MD-VA MSA, additional controls on mobile sources will be a key component to attaining the revised daily PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

If you need further information on this matter, please call George S. Hawkins, Director,
District Department of the Environment, at (202) 535-2615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian M. Fenty". The signature is stylized and overlaps with the printed name below it.

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

cc:

Judith Katz, Director, Air Protection Division, EPA Region III

George S. Hawkins, Director, DDOE

Cecily Beall, Associate Director for Air Quality Division, DDOE