



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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Ref: 8P-AR

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Governor Rounds:

Thank you for your State's recommendations on the status of fine particle pollution throughout South Dakota.

We have reviewed the December 11, 2007 letter from the Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Steven M. Pirner submitting South Dakota's recommendations on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. We have also reviewed the technical information submitted to support South Dakota's recommendations. We appreciate the effort your State has made to develop this supporting information. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees that your entire State is in attainment at this time. This means that across your State, all areas meet the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. This is truly good news for the residents of South Dakota.

Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about 1/30<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms like coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine-particle PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards by December 18, 2008. Please also be aware that in the near future, EPA is planning to publish a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comments on our intended designation decisions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may call Catherine Roberts, Particulate Matter Program Coordinator at 303-312-6025. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

Sincerely,



Carol Rushin  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Steven M. Pirner, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Tim Tollefsrud, Director, Division of Environmental Services  
Brian Gustafson, Administrator, Air Quality Program

