



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 18 2008

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

Frank Ettawageshik  
Tribal Chairman  
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
7500 Odawa Circle  
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49770

Dear Chairman Ettawageshik:

Thank you for your recommendations on the status of fine particle ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) pollution on your Reservation. Fine particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about  $1/30^{\text{th}}$  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 pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the December 12, 2007, letter from Robin Clark, Air Quality Specialist from your Environmental Services, submitting the Little Traverse Bay Band's recommendations on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  standards. Consistent with section 107(d) (1) of the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intends to designate Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, including all Indian country therein, as attainment/unclassifiable for the 2006  $PM_{2.5}$  health standard. If you would like to provide additional information about the  $PM_{2.5}$  status of your Reservation or adjoining areas for our consideration, please provide it to us by October 20, 2008.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution across the country, such as the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines. In addition, implementation plans developed by the states to attain the 1997  $PM_{2.5}$  standards will also help to reduce unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution.

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. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

Sincerely,



Lynn Buhl  
Lynn Buhl  
Regional Administrator