



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

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DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

MAY 4 1990

Ref: 8AT-AP

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph Tikvart, Chief
Source Receptor Analysis Branch

FROM: Douglas M. Skie, Chief
Air Programs Branch

SUBJECT: Four Billings, Montana Modeling Proposals

Over the past few months, EPA and the State have been discussing the Laurel/Billings SO₂ SIP, its adequacy for attainment and maintenance demonstration, its enforceability issues on stationary sources and its compliance for redesignation efforts. These issues cannot be resolved until an "adequate evaluation of the area" can be made. The City of Billings, Montana initiated efforts to obtain an SO₂ study as a tool to evaluate the SO₂ situation in the Billings/Laurel airshed. (Although Billings is not a nonattainment area, the sources in Billings are a part of the Laurel nonattainment SIP.) At some point in the future, the State is intending to submit a redesignation request for Laurel. Whichever model is chosen for the Billings area study will most likely be utilized by the State in its support of a redesignation request for Laurel. Therefore, the State and Region want to assure that the model chosen will be acceptable to EPA.

Enclosed is John Notar's review on four modeling proposals for the Billings area SO₂ study. On Tuesday, May 1, 1990, we express mailed the four modeling proposals to Dean Wilson as backup information to John's review.

Please note that EPA's review of the models is part of a commitment made by James Scherer, the Regional Administrator, to work closely with the State and local community to define the Billings air quality. It is, therefore, critical that we obtain your review and comments on these models. Please respond so that we may finalize our comments by early May 11, 1990. The State is meeting with the local community and the contractors on Monday, May 14, 1990, to finalize their selection of the modeling proposals. Discussions between John and Dean Wilson indicate that the present workload situation in Headquarters could allow this quick turnaround. Please contact John Notar at FTS 330-1755 if you have any questions.