



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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DEC 14 2009

Mr. Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. R-19J
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Re: Request for Cincinnati - Hamilton Area Redesignation and Maintenance Plan
Approval for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard

Dear Administrator Mathur:

I am writing to formally request a redesignation to attainment of the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-IN-KY area (Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren Counties in Ohio; Dearborn Township in Indiana; and Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties in Kentucky) with respect to the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard. The enclosed submittal combines the redesignation request and the required maintenance plan for this area.

Monitoring of existing air quality indicates that the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone has been attained throughout this area based on 2007-2009 air quality data. Emissions projections indicate that current controls, existing State rules, existing federal rules, and Ohio's PSD program will be more than sufficient to maintain the NAAQS indefinitely into the future. These programs will, therefore, constitute the attainment and maintenance plan for Ohio's portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area.

The enclosed information, compiled by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky Regional Council of Governments (associated planning organization), shows significant emission reductions in point and mobile sources since ambient violations have occurred. A significant portion of the improved air quality can be attributed to federal programs for the mobile source sector, the regional reductions associated with the NO_x Trading Program, and control strategies implemented by Ohio, such as Low Reid Vapor Pressure Fuel requirements. Note that Ohio's maintenance plan and emission projections do not account for the reductions that have resulted, and will continue to result, from the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), both regionally and directly within the Cincinnati-Hamilton area; however, Ohio EPA believes this program, or its future replacement, will also continue to ensure maintenance in this area.

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

The public hearing for this package was held on December 9, 2009, in Cincinnati, Ohio and public comments were accepted through December 11, 2009.

I am also requesting that this redesignation be processed by U.S. EPA as expeditiously as possible due to the potential reclassification of this area to a moderate nonattainment area, as proposed by U.S. EPA on January 16, 2009 ("Proposed Rule To Implement the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard: Revision on Subpart 1 Area Reclassification and Anti-Backsliding Provisions Under Former 1-Hour Ozone Standard; Proposed Deletion of Obsolete 1-Hour Ozone Standard Provision," 74 Fed. Reg. 2936).

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Hunter in our Division of Air Pollution Control at (614) 644-3696.

Sincerely,



Chris Korleski
Director

enclosures

cc: Bob Hodanbosi, DAPC
Jennifer Hunter, DAPC