



BOB TAFT
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

June 9, 2004

Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region V
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Mathur:

In furtherance of Sections 208 and 303(e) of the Clean Water Act, I hereby certify the items listed in the enclosure as updates to Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plans and the State's Water Quality Management Plan. These documents were prepared by three areawide councils of governments: Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), Northeast Ohio Regional Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), and Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO). These updates were subject to an open public participation process and were approved by the respective Areawide Agency governing boards. A copy of the Plan amendments is enclosed on a CD disk. William Tansey of Region V's Water Division has been sent a hard copy of the documents and a CD disk.

A separate issue has arisen concerning the political jurisdictions participating with the TMACOG. Former Governor Rhodes originally delineated five counties in northwest Ohio in the TMACOG designated planning area. For more than 20 years, Erie County officials have declined to participate in TMACOG's regional planning efforts. Erie County failed to meet its financial obligations expected of all participating members. As a result, in 2003 TMACOG's Board of Trustees voted to drop Erie County from the by-laws of the organization. Section 208(a)(2) of the CWA contemplates that changes to a designated area may occur from time to time and further appears to require that such redesignation be done in the form of a formal action of the Governor that would be approved by U.S. EPA. Base on this reading of the law, I hereby remove Erie County from TMACOG's designated planning area.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones at 644-2782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Taft".

Bob Taft
Governor

Cc:

Jo Lynn Traub, Director
U.S. EPA Region V Water Division

Anthony L. Reams, President
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

Howard R. Maier, Executive Director
Northeast Areawide Coordinating Agency

Joe Hadley, Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Four County Regional
Planning and Development Organization

Christopher Jones, Ohio EPA