



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

February 25, 2004

Secretary

717-787-2814

Mr. Donald S. Welsh
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. Welsh:


Pursuant to the requirements of section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), enclosed are our initial recommendations for designation of areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Commonwealth or Pennsylvania) with regard to the national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}).

The Commonwealth intends to take full advantage of the additional opportunities for review and revision provided under the CAA, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) pending rule implementing the PM_{2.5} standard and related guidance documents. We understand EPA intends to comment to the states on their recommendations on or about July, which triggers a 120-day review period for states and EPA to work out any unresolved issues. During that period, final PM_{2.5} data for calendar year 2003 will become available. In addition, since EPA's fine particulate implementation rule will not be promulgated until the end of the year, Pennsylvania also intends to review EPA's responses in light of the implications of the final PM_{2.5} rule, once available.

In preparing these recommendations, Pennsylvania has considered the factors described in EPA's guidance and has consulted with the general public and advisory groups, as well as with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and major metropolitan planning organizations. We also held public meetings in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia on January 27, 28 and 29, respectively.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our PM_{2.5} designation recommendations, please contact Nicholas A. DiPasquale, Deputy Secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection, by phone at 717-772-2724 or by e-mail at ndipasqual@state.pa.us . Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of Pennsylvania's recommendations.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. McCinty
Secretary

