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Prepped by Ollie Stewart

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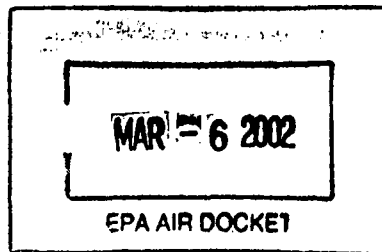
Docket Number:

A-2001-31

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[signed May 25, 2001]

Mr. Ray Scheppach
National Governors Association
444 M. Capitol Street
Hall of States
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512



Dear Mr. Scheppach:

I would like to invite the National Governors Association to share your recommendations and ideas on approaches for implementing the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) consistent with the February 27, 2001, Supreme Court decision.

As you may know, in July 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the ozone NAAQS by setting an 8-hour standard based on new health studies. The EPA set this standard to better protect Americans from ozone-related health problems, such as aggravating asthma and other respiratory ailments.

After lengthy litigation, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Clean Air Act provisions for setting national air quality standards. The Court also determined that a new ozone standard can be implemented, but said that the EPA must reconsider its implementation plan for moving from the pre-existing 1-hour standard to the revised standard.

Based on this decision, we are planning to move forward to develop a plan to implement the 8-hour ozone NAAQS in consultation with the stakeholders like you. During the period the U.S. Court of Appeals considers the remaining litigation issues, we believe that we have an opportunity for meaningful dialogue with you and others to develop an approach to implementation that is consistent with the Supreme Court ruling. Our Administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, has asked us to work with you to obtain your thoughts on how to implement the standard.

Some of the topics on which we hope to obtain your ideas are: geographic area classifications, timing regarding attainment dates and submissions for State Implementation Plans, rate of progress requirements, and credit for early voluntary control of emissions. You may have also been aware that a number of ideas had already emerged a few years ago during a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) process on implementation of the revised air quality standards.

If your organization is interested in participating in this effort, please provide the name, email address, and phone number of a point of contact from your organization. Please send that information to John Silvasi at 919-541-5666 (voice), 919-541-0824 (fax) or e-mail to silvasi.john@epa.gov. We anticipate holding an initial conference call in early June to discuss organization and logistics.

Thank you for considering participation in this important effort. Please feel free to contact Lydia Wegman at 919-541-5505 if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

John S. Seitz
Director
Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards

EPA:OAR:OAQPS:AQSSD:OPSG:JSILVASI\Lasiter:NCM Rm 510A:(MD-15) 1-5526
File Name: I:\SEC\SILVASI\IMPLEMENTATIONLTR.WPD May 25, 2001
Identical Letters were sent to the following:

National Governors Association
Attn: Ray Scheppach
National Governors Association
Hall of States
444 M. Capitol St.
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

National League of Cities
Attn: Donald Borut
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

United States Conference of Mayors
Attn: J. Thomas Cochran
1620 1 Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

National Conference of State Legislators

Attn: William Pound
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 515
Washington, D.C. 20001

Environmental Council of States (ECOS)

Attn: Robert E. Roberts
444 N. Capitol Street, NW
Suite 445
Washington, D.C. 20001

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

Attn: Thomas Kane
1700 K Street, Suite 1300
Washington, D.C. 20006

Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)

Attn: Jason Grumet
129 Portland Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA)

Attn: Susan Wierman
711 West 40th Street, Suite 318
Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2109

Southeastern States Air Resource Managers (SESARM/Metro)

Attn: Phil Brantley
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Central States Air Resource Agencies (CenSARA)

Attn: Larry Byrum
10005 South Penn Street, Suite C
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159

Western States Air Resources Council (WESTAR)

Attn: Dan Johnson
9 Monore Parkway, Suite 250
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035

Ozone Transport Commission (OTC)
Attn: Bruce Carhart
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 638
Washington, D.C. 20001

Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO)
Attn: Michael Koerber
2250 East Devon Ave, Suite 216
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Subsequent letters sent to:

**State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators/
Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (STAPPA/ALAPCO)**
Attn: Mr. William Becker
444 North Capitol Street, NW-Suite 307
Washington, DC 20001

Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP)
Attn: Pat Cummins
1515 Cleveland Pl.
Suite 200
Denver, CO 80202

National Association of Counties
Attn: Mr. Larry Naake, Executive Director
440 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001