UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

DEC - 3 2003

Honorable John G. Rowland, Governor
State of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rowland:

We have reviewed your June 24, 2003 letter submitting Connecticut's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour national health based standard for ground-level ozone, a major constituent of smog. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Section 107(d)(1), this letter is to inform you that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not intend to make modifications to your recommended designations and boundaries. We will continue to work with your office as we move forward to make final designations by April 15, 2004.

The Clean Air Act defines a nonattainment area as any area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant. EPA guidance indicates that Connecticut should use the larger of the Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or the 1-hour ozone nonattainment area as the presumptive boundary for 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. The guidance provides 11 factors that Connecticut should consider in determining whether to modify the presumptive boundaries. We have reviewed your June 24, 2003 submission and believe it is consistent with our guidance.

EPA has been tracking preliminary 2003 ozone monitoring data and assessing its impact on areas' 2001-2003 design values (DVs). EPA will continue to closely review monitoring data for differences that may occur as a result of data handling procedures to determine if it might affect the State's recommended designations. It is important for Connecticut to expedite submittal of 2003 monitoring data to EPA so that air quality designations and classifications for the 8-hour standard will accurately reflect the State's air quality. To advance this process, please submit your final 2003 monitoring data into the Air Quality System as quickly as possible, if it has not already been done. In addition, please submit the 8-hour and 1-hour design values and the average expected 1-hour exceedance rate to David Conroy of my staff by official letter by February 6, 2004.

Both the State's and EPA's work to identify areas in attainment or in nonattainment is an important step in our joint commitment to achieving clear air in our Region. We look forward to

working with Connecticut as we proceed to finalize the designations for the 8-hour ozone standard. We appreciate your efforts and will review any future supporting information the State wishes to submit, keeping in mind that EPA will promulgate designations by April 15, 2004. Also, please note that EPA will be addressing designations of Indian country lands through a concurrent process with the Tribes in Connecticut.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff call Mr. David Conroy of my staff at (617) 918-1661.

Very truly yours,

Bob

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

Governor -
Art and Jane have been terrific in helping us with regional ozone issues. All my best to you and your family during the holiday season.
- Bob

cc: Arthur J. Rocque, CT DEP
Anne Gobin, CT DEP
Erin M. Crotty, NY DEC Commissioner
Bradley M. Campbell, NJ DEP Commissioner

Enclosure

Enclosure

The following table identifies the areas within Connecticut that EPA intends to designate as nonattainment. These are consistent with Connecticut's recommendations of June 24, 2003. These nonattainment designations cover the entire State.

Area	**Connecticut Recommended Nonattainment Counties in that Area**	**EPA Nonattainment Counties in that Area (Identical to Connecticut recommendation)**
New York City Metropolitan Area (Connecticut Portion)	Fairfield County Middlesex County New Haven County	Fairfield County Middlesex County New Haven County
Greater Connecticut Area	Hartford County Litchfield County New London County Tolland County Windham County	Hartford County Litchfield County New London County Tolland County Windham County