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

DEC - 3 2003

Honorable Mitt Romney, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Department
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Romney:

We have reviewed your July 14, 2003 letter submitting Massachusetts' 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts should consider in determining whether to modify the presumptive boundaries. We have reviewed your July 14, 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts.

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,

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

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

cc: Secretrary Ellen Roy Hertzfelder, MA EOEA
Commissioner Robert Golledge, MA DEP

Enclosure

Enclosure

The following table identifies the areas within Massachusetts that EPA intends to designate as nonattainment. These are consistent with Massachusetts' recommendations of July 14, 2003. These nonattainment designations cover the entire State.

Area	**Massachusetts Recommended Nonattainment Counties in that Area**	**EPA Nonattainment Counties in that Area (Identical to Massachusetts recommendation)**
Eastern Massachusetts Area	Barnstable County Bristol County Dukes County Essex County Middlesex County Nantucket County Norfolk County Plymouth County Suffolk County Worcester County	Barnstable County Bristol County Dukes County Essex County Middlesex County Nantucket County Norfolk County Plymouth County Suffolk County Worcester County
Western Massachusetts Area	Berkshire County Franklin County Hampden County Hampshire County	Berkshire County Franklin County Hampden County Hampshire County