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

DEC - 3 2003

The Honorable James Douglas
Governor of Vermont
199 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101

Dear Governor Douglas:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 2003, submitting Vermont's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour national health-based standard for ground level ozone. The State submittal is the first step in our working cooperatively to designate areas in which the air standards have not been attained and in recognizing those areas that have achieved the clean air goal. Based on 2000-2002 ambient ozone data, you recommended attainment status for all areas in the State with regard to the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Section 107(d)(1), this letter is to inform you that the EPA does not intend to make modifications to your recommended designations and boundaries included in your May 7, 2003 letter.

Throughout the 2003 ozone season, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been tracking preliminary 2003 ozone monitoring data and its impact on the areas 2001-2003 ozone levels. We are pleased to report that our preliminary review of 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data through the end of September 2003, continues to confirm that the entire State is in attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard, as well as the 1-hour ozone standard. 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 Vermont 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 Vermont 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.

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 -
Jeff and Dick have been terrific in helping us with these ozone issues in the Northeast. All my best to you and your family during the holiday season.
- Bob

cc: Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner, DEC
Richard Valentinetti, DEC