UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

December 3, 2003

Reply To
Attn Of: OAQ-107

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Governor of Idaho
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0034

Re: EPA Acknowledges Idaho's Recommendation for 8-Hour Ozone Area Designation

Dear Governor Kempthorne:

Thank you for making recommendations on 8-hour ozone air quality designations. Pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to promulgate designations for new or revised standards, such as the 8-hour ozone standard. Earlier this year, we entered into a consent decree that requires us to promulgate designations by April 15, 2004.

We have reviewed your letter, dated April 15, 2003, submitting Idaho's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour ozone standard. This letter is to inform you that the EPA does not intend to make modifications to your recommendation of statewide attainment. We will continue to work with your office as we move forward to make final designations. Also, please note that EPA will be addressing designations of tribal lands through a separate concurrent process.

The CAA 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 Idaho 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 Idaho should consider in determining whether to modify the presumptive boundaries. We have reviewed your submission and believe it is consistent with our guidance.

EPA has been tracking preliminary 2003 ozone monitoring data and their impact on areas' 2001-2003 design values. EPA will continue to closely review monitoring data for differences that may have occurred throughout the remainder of the 2003 ozone season or as a result of data handling procedures to determine if they might affect the State's recommended designation.

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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 design values to Janis Hastings, of my staff, by official letter by January 23, 2004, to advance the designation and classification process

We look forward to a continued dialog with Idaho as we work to finalize the designations for the 8-hour ozone standard. If your air quality staff have any questions regarding this matter, they may contact Janis Hastings, Acting Director of the office of Air Quality, at (206)-553-1582

Sincerely,

L. John Iani
Regional Administrator

cc: C. Stephen Allred, Administrator, IDEQ
Martin Bauer, Administrator, Air Quality Division, IDEQ