UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DEC - 3 2003

Honorable James E. McGreevey
Governor of New Jersey
Post Office Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor McGreevey:

Thank you for making recommendations on 8-hour ozone air quality designations. Your letter is an important step in providing citizens of New Jersey with information on air pollution levels where they live and work. Levels of ground-level ozone, a major constituent of smog, have improved significantly since the Clean Air Act was amended in 1990, at which time 135 areas were designated as not attaining the 1-hour ozone standard. Since that time nearly half those areas (67) have cleaned up their air to meet the 1-hour ozone standard and have been redesignated as attaining that standard. However, many areas have still not met the 1-hour ozone standard and, in 1997, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a more stringent 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard. Thus, much work remains to be done. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to promulgate designations for new or revised standards, such as the 8-hour ozone standard, and will do so by April 15, 2004.

We have reviewed your June 24, 2003 letter submitting New Jersey's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour ozone standard. This letter is to inform you that the EPA intends to approve New Jersey's recommended designations and boundaries, with the exception of Ocean County. As a result of consultation with the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation and his staff, Ocean County will remain in the New York City nonattainment area as it was for the one-hour ozone nonattainment area. If you would like to provide additional information about the area in question, please provide this information by February 6, 2004. We will continue to work with your office as we move forward to make final designations.

EPA has been tracking 2003 ozone monitoring data and their impact on the 2001-2003 design values. Since New Jersey is designating the entire state as nonattainment, we do not anticipate any changes in air quality designations based on ozone data from 2003. Nonetheless, New Jersey may wish to expedite submittal of 2003 data to EPA in order to accurately reflect the areas' most recent status. To advance this process, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection should certify and submit New Jersey's final 2003 monitoring data into EPA's Air Quality System as quickly as possible.

We look forward to working with you to finalize the designations for the 8-hour ozone standard. We appreciate your efforts and will review any future supporting information that New Jersey wishes to submit on these recommendations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 212 637 5000 or have your staff contact Walter Mugdan, Director of the Division of Environmental Planning and Protection at 212 637 3724.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Kenny
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Erin M. Crotty
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Enclosure

The following table identifies the individual areas within New Jersey and counties comprising those areas that EPA intends to designate as nonattainment.

Area	**New Jersey's Recommended Nonattainment Counties**	**EPA Recommended Nonattainment Counties**
New York City Metropolitan - New Jersey's portion of NY-NJ-CT-PA area	Bergen, Sussex, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Union, Morris, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth	Bergen, Sussex, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Union, Morris, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean
Philadelphia Metropolitan area - New Jersey portion of PA-DE-MD-NJ area	Mercer, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May	Mercer, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May

Modification to New Jersey's Recommendations

Ocean County, New Jersey

New Jersey recommended that EPA include Ocean County in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Nonattainment Area based on analysis of wind patterns that indicate areas to its south and west affect Ocean County to a much greater extent than the New York City area to its north. EPA is including Ocean County in the New York City Metropolitan Nonattainment Area because Ocean County is part of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area and was included in the existing 1-hour ozone nonattainment area for New York City.