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

DEC - 3 2003

Honorable Sila Maria.Calderón
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza
PO Box 9020082
San Juan, PR 00902-0082

Dear Governor Calderón:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of evaluating whether air quality meets the 8-hour national health based standard for ground level ozone. As part of our evaluation, we have reviewed information on air quality in Puerto Rico and determined that air quality meets the federal health standard. Accordingly, EPA intends to designate Puerto Rico as attaining the 8-hour ozone standard.

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. Areas that violate, or contribute to violations of the 8-hour ozone standard will be designated as nonattainment. We have reviewed ozone air quality data for Puerto Rico and all ozone concentrations are less than the 0.08 ppm 8-hour health standard. To violate the 8-hour standard, the average of the fourth highest daily ozone from three years of data would have to exceed 0.08 ppm.

If you wish to provide additional information about 8-hour ozone in Puerto Rico, please provide this information by February 6, 2004. EPA is obligated to make final designations by April 15, 2004. 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

cc: Esteban Mujica Cotto
Chair, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board