State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

March 10, 2003

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Lawrence Starfield
Regional Administrator (6-A)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Starfield,

This letter is being submitted to fulfill Section 6103 (a) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). TEA-21 modified the Clean Air Act schedule for designating the status of areas with regards to the revised national ambient air quality standard for ozone. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated a revised ozone standard in July 1997. TEA-21 required that each state submit recommendations on the status of areas with regard to attainment of the new ozone standard by July 1999. On June 25 1999, the State of New Mexico provided the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the recommendation of attainment status for all areas of the state based on 1996-1998 data.

We have evaluated 1999-2001 ambient ozone monitoring data with respect to the new 8-hour ozone standard and find that all areas of New Mexico are still in compliance with the standard. Hence we recommend attainment status for all areas of the state with regard to the new 8-hour ozone standard.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

cc: Mr. Ron Curry, Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department