bcc: Sharon Reinders

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAY 12 2003

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Sante Fe, NM 87503

Dear Governor Richardson:

Thank you for your letter of March 10, 2003, submitting recommendations for designations under the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their community. Based on 1999-2001 ambient ozone data, you recommended attainment status for all areas of the State with regard to the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. We intend to carefully review the recommendations and work with your staff at the New Mexico Environment Department as necessary in determining final designations.

We appreciate your recommendation for meeting the July 15, 2003, deadline specified by Assistant Administrator Jeffrey R. Holmstead on February 27, 2003, in the memorandum entitled, "Extension for States and Tribes to Submit Air Quality Destination Recommendations for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)." We look forward to working with New Mexico in the coming months on designations. We envision that this would include the ozone data collected in 2002. We intend to advise states this fall of our plans for proposing and finalizing 8-hour ozone designations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or your staff may wish to contact Mr. Thomas Diggs of my staff at (214) 665-7214.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Greene

Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator

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

Mr. Alfredo R. Santisteven
Albuquerque Environmental Health Department