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

DEC 03 2003

The Honorable Brad Henry
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol Building
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Henry:

Thank you for your letter of July 15, 2003, in which you submitted Oklahoma's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour national health-based standard for ground level ozone. I also appreciate the supplemental material submitted by Mr. Eddie Terrill, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) on September 3, 2003, which provided additional supporting materials for the recommendation. The State submittal was the first step in our working cooperatively to designate as nonattainment those areas in which the air standards have not yet been attained and in designating attainment those areas that have achieved the clean air goal. As part of this process, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) committed to take into consideration the most recent air quality data collected to date in calendar year 2003 in making our determination. I am pleased to inform you that based on the data collected by ODEQ in 2003, all areas of Oklahoma appear to be demonstrating attainment for not only the 1-hour, but also the 8-hour ozone standard.

Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Section 107(d)(1), this letter is to inform you that the EPA intends to make modifications to the proposed designations and boundaries you provided on July 15, 2003, to take into consideration this most current ozone monitoring data.

Throughout the 2003 ozone season, ODEQ and local officials in Tulsa and Oklahoma City along with EPA tracked 2003 ozone monitoring data and its impact on the areas' 2001-2003 ozone levels. We are pleased to report that preliminary 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data through the end of the 2003 ozone season, indicate that the Tulsa area is attaining the 8-hour ozone standard. Therefore, as noted in the enclosure, we are recommending a modification to your proposal based on this data. Also, based on preliminary 2001-2003 data, the entire State is in attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard. We want to specifically acknowledge the voluntary efforts in your State to improve the air quality, especially the efforts with early air quality planning in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The EPA will continue to closely review monitoring data for additional differences that may occur through the remainder of the 2003 calendar year or as a result of data handling procedures to determine if that might affect the State's recommended designations.

The enclosure to this letter provides a discussion regarding our modifications to your nonattainment area recommendations.

The State's and EPA's work to identify areas in attainment or in nonattainment is an important step in our commitment to achieving clean air in our Region. I am pleased with the progress that Oklahoma has made in improving air quality. We appreciate your efforts and request that additional information the State wishes to have considered in an analysis for boundary determinations be submitted to EPA by February 6, 2004. We look forward to working with you as we proceed to finalize the designations for the 8-hour ozone standard.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff call Mr. Thomas Diggs, of my staff, at (214) 665-3102.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Eddie Terrill
Director, Air Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Enclosure

Modifications to Oklahoma's Recommendations

Tulsa Area

The State's recommendation was to designate the Tulsa Transportation Management Area within the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as unclassifiable based on 2000-2002 ozone monitoring data. Preliminary 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data indicate that the Tulsa MSA is not currently violating the 8-hour standard. However, there is concern that through the remainder of the calendar year or through the quality assurance process of the monitoring data, the area may show a violation. If this situation were to occur, we would consider the entire Tulsa MSA as nonattainment because it is the presumptive nonattainment area.

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