

December 27, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to announce the availability of the final "Federal Land Managers' Air Quality Related Values Workgroup (FLAG)" report. At the request of permit applicants and State and Federal permit review authorities, the Federal Land Managers (FLMs) under the Clean Air Act – the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service – formed FLAG to develop a more consistent approach for evaluating air pollution effects on their resources. The FLAG effort focused on how air pollutants – primarily ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrates, and sulfates – affect the health and status of resources in areas managed by the three agencies. FLAG subgroups concentrated on four issues: (1) terrestrial effects of ozone; (2) aquatic and terrestrial effects of wet and dry pollutant deposition; (3) visibility; and (4) process and policy issues. The final report contains issue-specific technical and policy analyses, recommendations for evaluating air quality related values, and guidelines for completing and evaluating new source review permit applications. In developing the final recommendations and guidelines, the FLMs considered public comments received at a public meeting and during a 90-day public comment period.

The FLAG report contains a wealth of information and should be a very useful tool. I support its recommendations, and encourage all FLMs, permitting authorities, permit applicants, and other interested parties to take advantage of the helpful guidance contained in the FLAG report when they prepare and review new source permit applications.

I want to thank the many people who contributed to this important and worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen C. Saunders  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Fish and Wildlife and Parks