



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 2 2005

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell  
Governor  
State of Connecticut  
Hartford, CT 06106

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Rell:

On September 29, 2004, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requested a waiver from the oxygen content requirement for federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) in the Connecticut covered area. The request was based upon DEP's claim that emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) will increase as a result of ethanol use. DEP claimed that the oxygen content requirement prevents or interferes with attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter, and that EPA should waive this requirement under section 211(k)(2)(B) of the Clean Air Act.

EPA has evaluated the limited information submitted by DEP and has determined that there has been no clear demonstration of what effect a waiver would have on ambient levels of ozone or particulate matter in the Connecticut RFG area. Since Connecticut has not made this threshold demonstration, EPA is not able to determine whether the RFG oxygen content requirement prevents or interferes with attainment of the ozone or particulate matter NAAQS in this area. Therefore, EPA denies Connecticut's waiver request.

The enclosed document entitled "Analysis of and Action on State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Request for a Waiver of the Oxygen Content Requirement in Federal Reformulated Gasoline" provides further discussion of the reasons for this decision. Additional technical information is available in the enclosed "Technical Support Document: Analysis of Connecticut's Request for Waiver of the Reformulated Gasoline Oxygen Content Requirement for Connecticut Covered Area."

We would be pleased to work with you and your staff if you have any questions about this decision or seek further guidance from the Agency on these issues.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson

Enclosures

cc: Commissioner Gina McCarthy