

# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
Branch of Air Quality  
7333 W. Jefferson Ave., Suite 375  
Lakewood, CO 80235-2017

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/ANWS-AR-AQ

December 10, 2007

Mr. David Lamb  
Chief, Operations Section  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176

Dear Mr. Lamb:

On August 23, 2007, the State of Missouri submitted a draft State Implementation Plan (SIP) describing its proposal to improve air quality regional haze impacts at mandatory Class I areas across your region. Subsequently, on September 19, 2007, the State submitted a revised draft of its SIP, together with several appendices that had been incomplete in the original package.

On October 30, 2007, the Department of the Interior's Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (ASFWP), Mr. David Verhey, sent a letter providing the Department's comments on the draft SIP. The letter was addressed to Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Director Mr. Doyle Childers. An electronic copy of the letter was provided to your staff the following day.

On November 1, 2007, MDNR posted a newly revised Regional Haze Plan for public notice via its website. The notice indicated that there would be a public hearing held December 6, 2007, and that comments would be accepted through December 13, 2007. We received an e-mail note from MDNR announcing the public notice, which acknowledged that "the early comments we received on the draft plan are appreciated and have been considered in the latest version of the plan that has been placed on public notice."

Last week, we learned that your office does not consider the official comments submitted by the Department of the Interior (DOI) at the end of October to be "on the public record." We were told that there is no intention to make the October 30, 2007, DOI letter available to either the public or the Missouri Air Conservation Commission, nor does MDNR plan to provide formal responses to the issues raised.

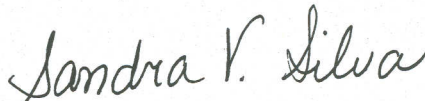
We have read the November 1, 2007, draft plan provided on your website, and observe that few, if any, of the specific items raised in the DOI letter have been addressed. As an enclosure to this cover letter, I am resubmitting the DOI comments into your official rulemaking process. We

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look forward to MDNR's response to each of these comments, as per section 40 CFR 51.308(i)(3).

We hope to continue working with MDNR toward resolving the many concerns raised by the Federal Land Management agencies, with a goal to continue making progress toward the Clean Air Act's goal of natural visibility conditions at all of our most pristine National Parks and Wilderness Areas for future generations. Please contact my office's Regional Haze Program lead, Tim Allen, at (303) 914-3802, to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Sandra V. Silva  
Chief, Branch of Air Quality

Enclosure

cc:

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