March 23, 2007

Dr. Lawrence Reiter, Director
US EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory
Mail Drop D305-01
Research Triangle Park, NC   27711

Dear Dr. Reiter:

Working through the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay's research and resource management community has adopted the restoration of underwater seagrasses as a long-term natural resource goal and indicator of the overall health of Tampa Bay. Water quality targets and associated nitrogen loading goals have been developed and adopted to support attainment of the seagrass restoration goal. The load reduction targets have subsequently been accepted by Florida DEP and US EPA as nutrient TMDLs for Tampa Bay.

As for many coastal systems, atmospheric deposition is a major source of nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay. Reduction strategies in our TMDL implementation plan include actions addressing atmospheric deposition sources and pathways to ensure progress towards maintaining our long-term nutrient reduction targets.

Results of the CMAQ-UCD model will provide resource managers in Tampa Bay with 1). greatly improved estimates of both direct and indirect deposition of nitrogen to the bay and watershed; 2). estimates of the relative contribution from local sources, including mobile, power plants and other sources; 3). estimates of reductions associated with several power plant upgrades in the Tampa Bay watershed; and 4). estimates of reductions in deposition due to the 2010 CAIR regulations.

CMAQ-UCD modeling results are crucial to the improvement of successful science-based management strategies for Tampa Bay, including those for TMDL implementation, and would not be available to us except through the application of the model by scientists working in NOAA's Atmospheric Sciences Modeling Division in partnership with US EPA. Robin Dennis in particular has made every effort to ensure that the results of the modeling are directly applicable to TBEP's needs for improved understanding of atmospheric deposition to the bay and watershed.

Sincerely,

Holly Greening, Senior Scientist

cc: Robin Dennis

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