

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866

May 31, 2000

Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E State Street, 7th Floor
PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Shinn:

On April 26, 2000, New Jersey submitted its revised Phase 2 State Implementation Plan (SIP) in order to demonstrate attainment of the one-hour ozone standard. A March 2, 1999 decision by the D.C. Circuit Court requires that the Environmental Protection Agency conduct a public process and make an affirmative decision on the adequacy of transportation conformity budgets before they can be used by metropolitan planning organizations in conformity determinations. This letter is to inform you that we have completed the required public comment period on the adequacy of the transportation conformity budgets. We are finding the 2007 and 2005 attainment budgets for volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides for the New Jersey portion of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut and Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton severe ozone nonattainment areas, respectively, adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

I would like to congratulate you and your staff for completing the work needed to submit these emission budgets within the very tight timeframe that was established for their revision. I believe that the submittal of these updated budgets is a sign of New Jersey's continued leadership in providing clean and healthy air and transportation planning. Specifically, these revised budgets meet the adequacy criterion in section 93.118(e)(4)(iv) of the federal transportation conformity regulation, which requires that when motor vehicle emissions budgets are considered with all other emission sources they must be consistent with the level of emissions that is necessary for the area to attain the one-hour ozone standard.

We will be publishing a Federal Register notice shortly announcing our adequacy finding. The finding will become effective 15 days after that notice appears in the Federal Register.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to have your staff contact Kathleen Callahan, Director of the Division of Environmental Planning and Protection at 212-637-3725.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Fox
Regional Administrator

cc: James Weinstein, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Dennis Merida, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division Office

Letitia Thompson, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region 2

Joel Weiner, Executive Director
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Timothy Chelius, Executive Director
South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization

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Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council