

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

May 23, 2001

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 11, 2001, New Jersey submitted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the Attainment and Maintenance of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard in order to demonstrate New Jersey's plan for meeting rate of progress emissions reductions requirements as mandated by the Clean Air Act. In addition, this SIP also contained rate of progress and updated attainment year transportation conformity budgets for volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides for the years 2002, 2005 and 2007 for the New Jersey severe ozone nonattainment areas.

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 2002, 2005 and 2007 rate of progress and updated attainment year budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (Nox) for the thirteen counties in the North Jersey Transportation Council, and the 2002 and 2005 rate of progress and updated attainment year budgets for VOCs and Nox for the four counties in the South Jersey Transportation Council and the four New Jersey counties in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

I would like to congratulate you and your staff for completing the work needed to submit these new and revised emission budgets. I believe that the submittal of these updated budgets is a sign of New Jersey's continuing leadership in providing clean and healthy air and transportation planning.

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 further question, please feel free to have your staff contact George Pavlou, Director of the Division of Environmental Planning and Protection at 212-637-3725.

Sincerely,

William J. Muszynski, P.E.
Acting 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

Timothy Chelius, Executive Director
South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization

John Coscia, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council

Joel Weiner, Executive Director
North Jersey Transportation Planning Association