



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Air Resources Division

P.O. Box 25287

Denver, CO 80225



N3615 (2350)

March 29, 2012

Cristina Fernandez, Associate Director
Office of Air Program Planning, Mail code 3AP30
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

EPA Docket ID: EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0144

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Maryland: Regional Haze State Implementation Plan." We commend the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for its comprehensiveness approach to improving air quality and for the large emission reductions it has obtained, and will continue to realize under its Healthy Air Act (HAA).

On January 10, 2012, NPS submitted comments to MDE describing our overall review of Maryland's draft State Implementation Plan (SIP) to address regional haze. We understand that the timing of our comments was such that MDE was unable to respond prior to its submittal of its regional haze SIP to EPA. We request that EPA place our January 10, 2012, comments (enclosed) into its docket for this action, and provide responses as warranted.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the MDE and EPA Region III to make progress toward achieving natural visibility conditions at our National Parks and Wilderness Areas. For further information regarding our comments, please contact me at (303) 969-2153.

Sincerely,

Pat Brewer
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure

cc:

George Aburn, Director
Air and Radiation Management Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230