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

DEC - 3 2003

Chief James Ransom
Chief Margaret Terrance
Chief Barbara Lazore
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

Dear: Chief James Ransom,
Chief Margaret Terrance,
Chief Barbara Lazore:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proceeding to make air quality designations for the 8-hour national health based standard for ground level ozone. We have reviewed information on air quality in your area and EPA intends to designate the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's lands as attaining the 8-hour ozone health standard.

EPA is obligated by the Clean Air Act to designate air quality for all areas of the United States, including Indian territories. It is EPA's responsibility to determine if the population within a given area is exposed to unhealthy levels of specific air pollutants, in this case ground level ozone. We make our determination after reviewing air quality measurements in your area.

Since the ozone monitor on St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's land does not yet have enough data to use to designate the area, we used data from surrounding monitors to determine your attainment status. These monitors show attainment of the standard and given the regional nature of ozone air quality, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's lands are attaining the ozone standard. The effect of this is to include the tribal lands as part of the larger surrounding attainment area.

EPA will continue to consult with the Tribal leaders on this issue. If you wish to provide additional information about the areas in question, please provide this information by February 6, 2004. EPA is obligated to make final designations by April 15, 2004. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 212-637-5000 or have your staff contact Walter Mugdan, Director of the Division of Environmental Planning and Protection at 212-637-3724.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Kenny,
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Ken Jock, Director
Environment Division
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe