



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

(AR-18J)

JAN 10 2005

Laurel Kroack, Acting Chief
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue, East
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

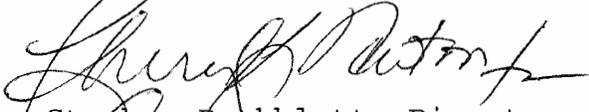
Dear Ms. Kroack:

Thank you for your November 30, 2004, letter updating the 1-hour ozone maintenance plan for the Metro-East St. Louis maintenance area. Pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has reviewed the ozone attainment demonstration and maintenance plans submitted on November 30, 2004. This document contained MOBILE6 based Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB) for the Metro-East St. Louis 1-hour ozone maintenance area. The 2007 MVEB for volatile organic compounds is 16.31 tons per day (tpd). The MVEB for oxides of nitrogen is 36.87 tpd. USEPA has determined that the submitted MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

The Transportation Conformity Rule spells out limited technical and administrative criteria that USEPA must use to determine the adequacy of submitted MVEBs for transportation conformity purposes. USEPA also described the process for determining the adequacy of submitted MVEBs in a May 14, 1999, memorandum entitled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999, Conformity Court Decision." USEPA followed this guidance in making this adequacy determination. USEPA opened the public comment period on the adequacy of the submitted MVEBs by posting them to the USEPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality's adequacy review website (www.epa.gov/otag/transp/conform/adequacy.htm) on October 11, 2004. The comment period closed on November 12, 2004, and no comments were received.

USEPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing this finding. If you have any questions regarding this finding, please feel free to call me or Anthony Maietta, of my staff, at (312) 353-8777.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen Rothblatt, Director
Air and Radiation Division

standard bcc's: official file copy w/attachment (s)
 originator's file copy w/attachment (s)
 originating organization reading file
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