



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

August 26, 2004

The Honorable Kendl P. Philbrick, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Secretary Philbrick :

This is to inform you that EPA is withdrawing its June 22, 2000 adequacy finding on the 2015 and 2020 outyear mobile budgets for the Metropolitan Washington D.C. area because you have withdrawn the state implementation plan (SIP) submissions containing those budgets. This action means that the previously adequate 2015 and 2020 mobile vehicle emission budgets will no longer be available for transportation conformity purposes. I assure you that this action has no effect whatsoever on EPA's more recent adequacy finding of December 9, 2003, which declared the 2005 Rate of Progress Plan and 2005 revised Attainment Demonstration Plan mobile budgets adequate for conformity purposes. The December 9, 2003 adequacy finding stands and the budgets of the 2005 Rate of Progress Plan and 2005 revised Attainment Demonstration Plan remain available for transportation conformity determinations.

By letters dated March 2, 2004, March 10, 2004 and March 10, 2004, the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia, and District of Columbia, respectively, formally submitted requests to withdraw the previously submitted SIPs listed in the table below:

State	SIP Title	Original SIP Submission Date
Maryland	State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision Phase II Attainment Plan for the DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area Establishing Outyear Mobile Emissions Budgets for Transportation Conformity	March 31, 2000
Virginia	Plan amendment which establishes motor vehicle emissions budgets for 2015 and 2020 consistent with the Phase II Ozone Attainment Plan,	March 22, 2000
Washington D.C.	Proposed Revision to State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision, Phase II Attainment Plan for the DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area Establishing Out-year Mobile Emissions Budgets for Transportation Conformity	March 22, 2000

These now withdrawn SIP submissions had proposed new mobile vehicle emissions budgets for the outyears 2015 and 2020. In a letter dated June 22, 2000 from Judith M. Katz, Director, Air Protection Division, EPA, Region III to Ms. Ann Marie DeBiase, Director, Air & Radiation Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, EPA declared these budgets adequate for transportation conformity purposes. This adequacy determination was announced in the Federal Register on July 3, 2000 (65 FR 41067). It is important to note that while EPA had made an adequacy finding for these budgets, they were never approved as SIP revisions by EPA. Hence, there is no SIP rulemaking required to be withdrawn by EPA for these budgets.

We will be posting this letter on EPA's website at, <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> and we will also announce today's action on the withdrawn budgets in the Federal Register. We anticipate that the announcement will be published shortly. The findings of our withdrawal of the adequacy finding of the outyear mobile budgets will be effective 15 days after publication of the announcement in the Federal Register.

If you or your staff have any questions please feel free to contact Carol Febbo, Chief, Energy, Radiation and Indoor Environment Branch at (215) 814-2076.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Katz, Director
Air Protection Division

cc: Howard Simons (MDOT)
Valencia Thompson (FHWA, MD)
Thomas Snyder (MDE)
Diane Franks (MDE)
Joan Rohlf's (WASCOG)