



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

MAY 09 2001

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

AR-18J

Janet McCabe, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Air Management
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 6015
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6015

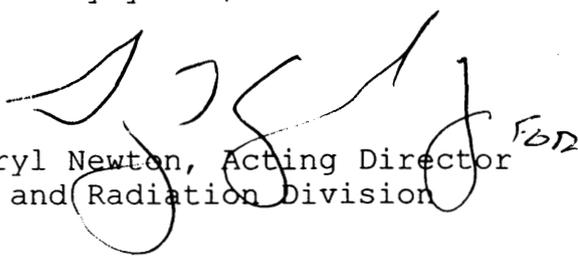
Dear Ms. McCabe:

Pursuant to section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the adequacy of the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) contained in the Lake and Porter Counties (Northwest Indiana) Ozone Attainment and Rate of Progress (ROP) State Implementation Plans (SIP) submitted on November December 21, 2000 and April 17, 2001. These documents contain motor vehicle emission budgets for VOC for 2002, 2005, and 2007 and for NOx for 2007. EPA has determined that the submitted MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

The Transportation Conformity Rule spells out limited technical and administrative criteria that EPA must use to determine the adequacy of submitted MVEBs for transportation conformity purposes. EPA 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." EPA followed this guidance in making this adequacy determination. EPA opened two public comment periods on the adequacy of the submitted MVEBs by posting them to the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality's adequacy review website (www.epa.gov/otag/transp/conform/adequacy.htm) on January 17, 2001, for the attainment demonstration budget and February 27, 2001, in parallel with the State's public comment period on the ROP budgets. The comment period closed on February 16 and March 28, 2001, respectively, and no comments were received. Indiana's public comment period closed on March 5, 2001, and the state did not receive any comments either.

EPA 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 Ryan Bahr, Environmental Engineer of my staff, at (312)353-4366.

Sincerely yours,


Cheryl Newton, Acting Director
Air and Radiation Division