



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

April 24, 2003

Joyce Epps, Director
Bureau of Air Quality
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8468

Dear Ms. Epps:

On March 2, 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued its opinion in Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), No. 97-1637, that the EPA must make an affirmative determination that the submitted Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (the budgets) contained in State Implementation Plans (SIPs) are consistent with applicable requirements for attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) before the budgets are used to test the conformity of Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) or Long Range Transportation Plans. In addition, EPA agreed to make these submitted budgets available for public comment and to respond to those comments when announcing our determination of their adequacy.

On January 17, 2003, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania submitted "State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the Philadelphia Ozone Nonattainment Area - Revised Highway Vehicle Emission Budgets" as a SIP revision to EPA. The submittal contains budgets for the year 2005 for the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton Ozone Nonattainment Area (Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Bucks Counties). On February 25, 2003, we posted the availability of the budgets on EPA's conformity website for the purpose of soliciting public comment. The comment period closed on March 27, 2003. No comments were received.

We will announce today's adequacy findings for the budgets in the Federal Register. Once that notice is published, we will post today's findings on EPA's website at, <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp.htm>.

The Federal Register announcement will be published as soon as possible. These findings of adequacy of the revised Attainment Plan budgets for the Southeast Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton Ozone Nonattainment Area (Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Bucks Counties) 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 Robert Kramer, Chief, Energy, Radiation and Indoor Environment Branch at (215) 814-2704.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Katz, Director
Air Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Arleen Shulman, PADEP
Wick Havens, PADEP
John J. Coscia, DVRPC
Michael Baker, PennDOT
James A. Cheatham, FHWA