

April 30, 2002

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Support for the Monitoring Strategy

FROM: John S. Seitz, Director (/signed)
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (C404-04)

TO: National Monitoring Steering Committee

The purpose of this memorandum is to express my strong support for the National Air Monitoring Strategy goals. The effort you are putting forth to optimize the existing networks and implement a new National Core (NCore) multi-pollutant network not only are consistent with the direction of our air programs, but also can serve as a catalyst for integrating air quality management across pollutant groups.

I recognize that the intersection of certain aspects of network assessment efforts with policy issues creates significant challenges. We need to be proactive in the positive aspects of this monitoring strategy and take the necessary bold steps to effect needed change in the networks. At the same time, we must ensure that any adjustments in policy are founded upon sound technical approaches and that the strategy not be used as a vehicle to lessen regulatory requirements nor to evade the intent of the Clean Air Act. We are currently exploring methods to accommodate policy objectives in the face of a restructured monitoring network. The strategy must be used to redirect efforts to new priorities in continuous PM monitoring, air toxics, and timely dissemination of data to the public.

The following principles should be followed:

1. Transition to multiple pollutant measurement approaches integrating ozone, particulate matter, and air toxics to assist in the comprehensive atmospheric program management.
2. Accommodate advanced instrument and information transfer technology to produce insightful and timely data to the public.

3. Manage divestment in traditional criteria pollutant measurements to move toward integrated measurement approaches and support hazardous air pollutant assessments, while preserving the monitoring sites which are needed to make attainment and nonattainment determinations.
4. Apply sound science approaches with appropriate scientific review through the Scientific Advisory Board or other entities.
5. Retain flexibility to pursue new priorities and divest in program areas with demonstrated progress.
6. Maintain a reasonable resource balance between National and State/Local/Tribal (SLT) needs, such that SLT's have flexibility to address area specific issues.

I strongly support the analysis efforts and the thought going into the development of NCore and the National Monitoring Strategy. For too long, our monitoring network has remained static, even in the face of changing air pollution problems. A new analysis of these networks needs to focus on the air pollution problems of the next era, including pollutant transport (PM_{2.5}, ozone, regional haze); new pollutants (PM_{coarse}); air toxics; and others. This reflects a significant reanalysis of our current monitoring program. As this analysis proceeds, it will present a number of policy challenges. As we consider how to proceed with the monitoring strategy, we must remain mindful of these challenges and be prepared to respond to them.

I appreciate your support to this endeavor and trust that this guidance will be helpful to you.

cc: Deputy Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection, Region I
 Director, Environmental Planning and Protection Division, Region II
 Director, Air Protection Division, Region III
 Director, Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, Region IV
 Acting Director, Air and Radiation Division, Region V
 Director, Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Region VI
 Director, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, Region VII
 Director, Air and Radiation Program, Region VIII
 Director, Air Division, Region IX
 Director, Office of Air, Region X
 Acting Director, Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation, Region I
 Director, Environmental Services and Assessment Division, Region II
 Director, Environmental Services Division, Regions III and VII
 Director, Science & Ecosystems Support Division, Region IV

Director, Resource Management Division, Region V

Assistant Regional Administrator, Management Division, Region VI

Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Technical and Management
Services, Region VIII

Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Policy and Management, Region IX

Director, Office of Environmental Assessment, Region X

Tom Helms, OAQPS/AQSSD

Lydia Wegman, OAQPS/AQSSD