UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN 28 2004

The Honorable Arturo Senclair
Governor of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
El Paso, TX 79917

Dear Governor Senclair:

Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. These tiny particles – about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair – have been scientifically linked to serious human health problems. Their ability to be suspended in air for long periods of time makes them a public health threat far beyond the source of emissions. An important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air deals with reducing levels of this fine-particle or PM2.5 pollution.

We have reviewed the letter from your Tribe concerning the designation recommendations for the Fine Particle standard, submitted on March 16, 2004. After a thorough review of your recommendations, EPA agrees that the area in which your Tribe is located is in attainment at this time. This means that these areas meet the more protective, health-based fine-particle standard. That is truly good news for the members of your Tribe.

We challenge you to not only maintain, but also continue the progress you have made toward clean air. It is a commitment to no backsliding in the clean air status for fine particles that your Tribe has achieved. You will hear from us again in November when EPA makes its final decisions on PM2.5 designations determining those areas that meet or do not meet the fine particle standards.

The Bush Administration has made the reduction of fine particle pollution a critical element of a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the eastern U.S. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help Tribes, states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM2.5 standards. If you have any questions, please call me at (214) 665-2100, or have your staff call Mr. Thomas Diggs of my staff at (214) 665-7214. Again, we congratulate you on the clean air fine particle status that your Tribe has achieved.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator