



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

October 15, 2010

Gwen Keyes Fleming  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Re: North Carolina's Recommendations for Air Quality Designations for the Lead Standard

Dear Ms. Fleming:

I am writing on behalf of Governor Beverly E. Perdue to recommend air quality designation status and related boundaries of areas in North Carolina for the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for lead, pursuant to Section 107(d)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act as amended.

As stated in the previous recommendation for air quality designations for the lead standard dated October 15, 2009, the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ) currently does not operate any lead monitors. However, the NCDAQ has analyzed lead concentrations in fine particulate matter samples since 1999 and the lead concentrations have always been well below the recently promulgated lead NAAQS. On average, the lead concentrations are below 0.015 micrograms per cubic meter or one tenth of the standard. Although the standard is based on total suspended particulate matter, we believe that the analysis of the fine particulate matter is an indicator that North Carolina is attaining the lead NAAQS. Therefore, it is North Carolina's recommendation that all counties in North Carolina be designated as attainment/unclassifiable.

North Carolina is committed to protecting the health of our citizens and solving our air quality problems. We believe that improving our air quality is critical to the health of our citizens and that our future growth, prosperity and quality of life will be threatened if we do not remain diligent. We look forward to continuing to work with the USEPA to establish appropriate boundaries for nonattainment areas and a sufficient monitor network.

Sincerely,

Dee Freeman

DF/lab

cc: The Honorable Beverly E. Perdue  
Ms. Sheila C. Holman  
Mr. Jamie Kritzer