

February 12, 2004

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator
USEPA, Region IV
Atlanta Federal Center, 12th Floor
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: Clean Air Act
Tennessee Counties Recommended as Nonattainment for PM 2.5

Dear Mr. Palmer:

As the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, I am designated to file the recommended annual and 24-hour attainment designations for Tennessee as required by the Clean Air Act. Based upon EPA's Designation Boundary Guidance of April 1, 2003, the following counties are recommended as nonattainment for the annual PM 2.5 national ambient air quality standard:

2000 – 2002 Data Final

Knoxville MSA
Knox Co.

Chattanooga MSA
Hamilton Co.

Kingsport Bristol MSA
Sullivan Co.

Roane Co.

McMinn Co.

2001 – 2003 Data Preliminary

Knoxville MSA
Knox Co.

Chattanooga MSA
Hamilton Co.

Kingsport Bristol MSA
Sullivan Co.

Roane Co.

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Tennessee will also recommend that no counties be identified as failing to meet the 24-hour PM 2.5 standard, therefore, none are listed.

EPA is currently in the process of preparing a rule to be used in implementing the new PM 2.5 standards. Because this guidance has not been finalized by EPA, Tennessee reserves the right to make an amended recommendation after reviewing the final EPA implementation rule.

The remaining counties of Tennessee that are not specified above are recommended as attainment or unclassifiable, and will be subject to additional control measures that will help all of Tennessee demonstrate attainment of the annual PM 2.5 standard.

I believe these recommendations will enable Tennessee to attain the PM 2.5 standards within the deadlines established by the Clean Air Act and its implementation regulations.

Your favorable review of these recommendations will be appreciated. Additional information used to formulate the recommendations will be forwarded to you under separate cover by our Air Pollution Control Division Director, Barry Stephens.

Sincerely,

Betsy L. Child

Copy to: Kay Prince, EPA Region IV
Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board
Tennessee Local Air Programs