



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

DEC - 2 2004

Betsy L. Child, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation
21st Floor, L & C Tower
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0435

Dear Ms. Child:

Thank you for your November 10, 2004, letter to Michael Leavitt, Administrator of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning fine particulate matter (PM2.5) designations in Tennessee. Your letter was forwarded to the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia for response. In your letter you requested that EPA accept the State of Tennessee's recommendation for boundaries for the PM2.5 designations.

EPA and Tennessee have been in extensive dialogue over the past several months regarding the PM2.5 designation process. We appreciate the additional information provided by Tennessee and have incorporated that information into our evaluation process. We anticipate a final decision on boundaries for the Knoxville and Chattanooga Tennessee, areas to be made by the Administrator by December 31, 2004.

Regarding your request for a meeting, we would be happy to schedule such a meeting. We have had a number of meetings and conference calls with county representatives and congressional staff from these areas in Tennessee. The participation of representatives from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in these discussions has been appreciated. We have also had numerous meetings involving other Region 4 states over the past few months and have found them very useful as well. To schedule a meeting, or if we can be of assistance in any other way, please contact me or Beverly Banister, Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, at 404/562-9077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. I. Palmer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator

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ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE