

June 24, 2004

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Mr. Barry R. Stephens, P.E., Director
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Air Pollution Control
9th Floor, L&C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1531

Dear Mr. Stephens:

This letter serves as our June 2004 Progress Report for the 8-hour Ozone Early Action Compact for the Chattanooga area which will be included in the State's submittal to EPA.

1. Document progress that the local compact area and State have made since the last progress report (December 2003) regarding development of control strategies and early action plans submitted March 31, 2004.

On June 14, 2004, EPA reinstated the EAC and deferred the effective date of the nonattainment designation for Hamilton County, TN; Meigs County, TN; and Catoosa County, GA, as a result of additional measures being taken by Chattanooga to improve air quality in the area. The additional measures being implemented in Hamilton County include a seasonal open burning ban and a vehicle inspection and maintenance program. These measures have been included in the modeling demonstration and result in modeled attainment by December 2007.

2. Document progress that the local area has made towards adoption and implementation of local measures, including schedule for adoption and implementation of these measures, any changes in the schedule, and any additions or deletions of measures since the submission of March 31, 2004 plans.

The schedule for adoption and implementation of the various control measures is included in the March 31, 2004 early action plan submittal. These local control measures include:

A. Stage I Vapor Recovery

Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga adopted Stage I vapor recovery prior to the March 31, 2004 deadline. This program is currently in effect and is being implemented.

B. Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

Hamilton County will institute a vehicle inspection and maintenance program for all of Hamilton County. The program will consist of On-Board Diagnostics-II testing for model year 1996-and-newer and basic inspection and maintenance for pre-1996 vehicles. The authority for us to undertake such a program was signed by the Governor June 9, 2004. We will work with the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board in order to have an approved program in place during the 2005 ozone season and will undertake this process in an expedited manner.

C. Seasonal Open Burning Ban

Hamilton County and Chattanooga will provide for an open burning ban similar to the Atlanta-area ban from May 1 to September 30. We anticipate having this seasonal ban in place during the 2005 ozone season and continuing thereafter. As with all regulatory processes, we must go through a public comment and hearing process before the local legislative process can take place, and then work with the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board to get approval of the regulatory changes in order to have this incorporated into the State Implementation Plan.

D. Ozone Action Day Program

We are putting the finishing touches on our Ozone Action Day Program and will implement it in the very near future.

3. Describe progress that the State or local area has made in completing technical analyses for attainment demonstration due December 31, 2004, including any additional modeling or analyses since submission of March 31, 2004 plans.

Since March 31, 2004, the Chattanooga EAC area, largely through the efforts of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, has completed and submitted to EPA an additional attainment demonstration. We are in working with EPA, Region IV, to determine additional modeling requirements, if any.

4. Describe any meetings conducted by the stakeholders since December 31, 2003.

Periodic updates and discussion of regional air quality progress occur at monthly meetings of the Chattanooga Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The stakeholders have been involved in on-going discussions beginning April 15, 2004, through June 9, 2004 with STAPPA/ALAPCO, the American Lung Association, Environmental Defense, Tennessee Environmental Council, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, US EPA and others.

5. Document current progress of the State's development of the SIP (due December 31, 2004), including schedule for adoption and implementation of State regulations, as well as a description of public meetings and/or hearings that have occurred or will be conducted prior to SIP submission.

It is our understanding that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will provide the update on the development of the SIP.

6. Describe any obstacles toward completing the December 31, 2004 milestone or any future milestones.

No difficulties are anticipated in implementing the local control measures or meeting the other requirements of the Chattanooga Area Early Action Compact.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Colby
Director

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c: Kay Prince, US EPA, Region IV
David Cole, US EPA, OAQPS