



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

March 29, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's current review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM) and to invite you to consult with the EPA, as the Agency considers options for rulemaking.

The current PM NAAQS include both primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) standards. The EPA has separate standards for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) and coarse particles (PM₁₀). The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to review periodically the air quality criteria – the science upon which the standards are based – and the standards themselves. The EPA completed the last review of the PM NAAQS in 2006.

Reviewing the NAAQS includes the development of a number of assessment documents. As part of the current PM NAAQS review, the EPA has completed an Integrated Science Assessment, a Quantitative Health Risk Assessment, an Urban-Focused Visibility Assessment, and a Policy Assessment. These documents and related materials are available on EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_index.html.

The next step in the PM NAAQS review is to issue a proposed rulemaking notice for public comment. We are interested in whatever input you wish to offer to ensure that we develop the best rule possible. To ensure that your lands and interests are protected, we are prepared to consult with you or your designee should you desire. If you would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the EPA, please contact Laura McKelvey at (919) 541-5497, email: mckelvey.laura@epa.gov, or Angel McCormack at (919) 541-3588, email: mccormack.angel@epa.gov. Please contact us by April 30, 2012, in order to request consultation.

We endeavor to conduct our efforts with sensitivity to the needs and culture of your tribe and with attention to the potential impact of our actions. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lydia N. Wegman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lydia N. Wegman
Director
Health and Environmental Impacts Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

cc: Tribal Environmental Director
Tribal Environmental Staff