



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

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

February 11, 2010

Barry Stephens, Director
Division of Air Quality Control
Tennessee Department of
Environment and Conservation
9th Floor, L&C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Thank you for the April 14, 2008, submittal of the final attainment demonstration plan for the Knoxville, Tennessee 1997 annual particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) nonattainment area. The Knoxville, Tennessee nonattainment area is comprised of Anderson, Blount, Knox, and Loudon Counties and a portion of Roane County.

Pursuant to section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 C.F.R. Part 93, Subpart A), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Knoxville, Tennessee, 1997 PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration as well as the motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEBs) contained in the attainment demonstration plan which were developed with the MOBILE6.2 emissions factor model. We have determined that these MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

Tennessee's 1997 PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration for Knoxville, Tennessee has MVEBs for direct PM_{2.5} and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) for 2009. The MVEBs are 283.63 tons per year for PM_{2.5} and 18,024.9 tons per year for NO_x. These MVEBs apply to the entire Knoxville nonattainment area, including the portion in Roane County. These MVEBs meet the standard requirement that any MVEB must meet before it can be used to determine conformity for a transportation improvement program or long range transportation plan. This adequacy finding does not relate to the merits of the SIP submittal nor does it indicate whether the submittal meets the requirements for approval.

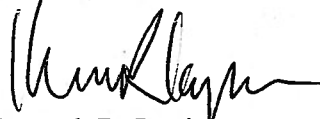
EPA opened a comment period on the adequacy of MVEBs contained in the Knoxville, Tennessee PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration by posting it on our website on April 14, 2008 (See www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/conform/adequacy.htm). The comment period closed on May 14, 2008. No comments were received during EPA's adequacy comment period. More information on SIPs and adequacy reviews is available on the EPA website. EPA will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing this adequacy finding. The Federal Register

announcing this adequacy finding. The Federal Register will also announce the date that the adequacy finding becomes effective. The MVEBs will be available for use on the effective date.

EPA notes that the D.C. Circuit issued a decision on July 11, 2008, vacating the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). North Carolina v. EPA, 531 F.3d 896 (D.C. Cir. 2008). On September 24, EPA and other parties in the case filed motions for rehearing asking the D.C. Circuit to reconsider its decision in the case. On December 23, 2008, the court granted EPA's motion for rehearing to the extent it agreed to remand CAIR without vacating it. However, the court made no other changes to the July 11 opinion, remanding the case to EPA for further rulemaking consistent with this opinion. Therefore, the CAIR rule remains in place, but EPA must promulgate another rule consistent with the court's July 11 opinion. EPA has reviewed these motor vehicle emissions budgets in light of the remand of the CAIR rule and concluded that the budgets meet the conformity rule's adequacy criteria found at 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). In particular, EPA has concluded that the motor vehicle emissions budgets satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4)(iv) which requires that MVEBs, when considered together with all other emissions sources, are consistent with applicable requirements for attainment. EPA has determined that sufficient emissions reductions from all sources of direct PM_{2.5} and relevant precursors including SO₂ are currently occurring to allow the area to reach attainment by 2010 as planned in the submitted state implementation plan. The air quality modeling results indicate a downward trend in all emission sources based upon the air quality improvements.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Richard A. Schutt, Chief, Air Planning Branch at (404) 562-9033.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Lapierre
Acting Director
Air, Pesticides, and Toxics
Management Division

cc: Lynn Liddington, DAQM Knox County