



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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Ref: 8P-AR

JAN 30 2018

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Re: State Implementation Plan (SIP) Attainment Plan for the Metro-Denver/North Front Range Ozone Nonattainment Area; Transportation Conformity Adequacy

Dear Mr. Wolk:

The EPA has reviewed the Metro-Denver/North Front Range (Metro-Denver/NFR) "Moderate" ozone attainment plan SIP revision that was submitted to the EPA by your letter, on behalf of the Governor, dated May 16, 2017.

Based on our review, we have found the Metro-Denver/NFR ozone attainment plan and the new 2017 motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) adequate for purposes of transportation conformity. Our finding involves the MVEBs, as identified in Chapter 11 of the attainment plan, for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This finding is based primarily on the Metro-Denver/NFR ozone attainment plan's ability to meet the applicable procedures and criteria for adequacy pursuant to 40 CFR 93.118 of the federal Transportation Conformity Regulations (40 CFR 93, Subpart A). We will announce this adequacy finding by publishing a subsequent Notice in the Federal Register. The adequacy finding will then become effective 15 days after the publication of the Notice.

As part of our adequacy review, we advised the public of our receipt of the Metro-Denver/NFR ozone attainment plan by posting an announcement of its availability on EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality website at:

<https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/adequacy-review-state-implementation-plan-sip-submissions-conformity>

We requested public comments by January 8, 2018 and we did not receive any comments.

As presented in Chapter 11 of the ozone attainment plan, we find that the Total Nonattainment Area Budgets of 73 tons per day (tpd) of NO_x and 55 tpd of VOC for 2017 are adequate according to 40 CFR 93.118. In addition, we find the nonattainment area's Northern Subarea Budgets of 12 tpd of NO_x and 8 tpd of VOCs and the Southern Subarea Budgets of 61 tpd of NO_x and 47 tpd of VOCs, all for 2017, are also adequate.

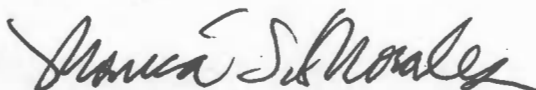
As described in Chapter 11 of the Metro-Denver/NFR ozone attainment plan the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) may switch from using the combined nonattainment area-wide MVEBs to using the sub-area MVEBs for determining transportation conformity. To switch to use of the sub-area MVEBs (or to subsequently switch back to use of the combined nonattainment area-wide MVEBs), DRCOG and the NFRMPO must use the process as described in Chapter 11 of the Metro-Denver/NFR ozone attainment plan on pages 11-5 through 11-6.

Our adequacy finding affects future transportation conformity determinations as prepared by DRCOG, the NFRMPO, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Please note that this adequacy finding is separate from the EPA's subsequent rulemaking action on the Metro-Denver/NFR "Moderate" ozone attainment plan SIP revision and should not be used to prejudge the EPA's approval or disapproval of the SIP revision.

If members of your staff have any questions, please have them contact Tim Russ of my staff at (303) 312-6479 or email at russ.tim@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Monica S. Morales
Director, Air Program
Office of Partnerships & Regulatory Assistance

cc: Garry Kaufman, CDPHE
Bill Haas, FHWA
David Beckhouse, FTA Region VIII