



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 29 2005

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF
(R-19J)

Steven Chester, Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Dear Mr. Chester:

I am writing to you in response to your June 30, 2005, letter regarding the progress being made toward development of an 8-hour ozone attainment strategy for the Southeast Michigan area. We appreciate the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality keeping the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) apprised of your efforts.

As you indicate in your letter and accompanying background materials, we agree that the implementation of national measures is expected to bring the Southeast Michigan area close to attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by 2007.

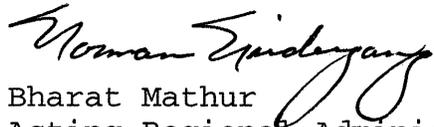
The supporting documentation you included with your letter indicates that reducing volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions will be the most effective strategy to bring the area into attainment. We agree that the adoption of control measures that have been selected (i.e., 7.0 vapor pressure gasoline, cement manufacturing control, and reducing emissions from consumer/commercial products) will be helpful toward reaching attainment. Any additional reductions of VOC emissions that could occur through the voluntary or contingency measures, such as the ones listed, will be beneficial as well.

With that in mind, I would urge Michigan to adopt those measures that will accelerate the area reaching attainment of the ozone standard by 2007. We encourage the early adoption of measures to ensure that the reductions necessary to reach attainment will occur as soon as possible.

We believe that your letter and supporting documentation satisfies the commitment made in your July 15, 2004, letter that originally requested a reclassification of the Southeast Michigan area from Moderate ozone nonattainment to Marginal ozone attainment.

Again, thank you for your letter. Please feel free to contact me in the future if I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



for Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator