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SEP 26 2000

September 20, 2000

Steven A. Rapp, Manager
Air Permits Program CAP
US EPA, Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston Massachusetts 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Rapp:

Thank you for your letter regarding the memorandum entitled "Guidance on 8-Hour Ozone Designations for Indian Tribes". We appreciate EPA's recognition of Tribal Sovereignty and the opportunity to participate in designations related to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

While the Penobscot Nation continues to develop the leading tribal air quality management program in the region, we recognize many areas of the program that will take additional time to reach the level of sophistication needed to fully and properly manage our air quality and affect it's impact on tribal lands, people and culture. One of these areas is ambient monitoring. I trust you are aware that the Penobscot Nation has been unable to monitor for ozone due to a number of factors. This is one of many areas we hope to develop in the near future, with the continued support of EPA at both the national and regional levels.

Given the lack of local data regarding ambient ozone concentrations on Penobscot lands and the requirement to make ozone designations by March 2001, I am prepared to recognize the nature of ozone formation and transport and the presence of distant State operated monitors as the basis of a designation. While the Penobscot Nation will recommend and support a designation of "attainment" for tribal lands, I must emphasize our strong recommendation for support of a Tribal monitoring program, which will in the future allow us to verify this designation. We believe questions remain due to the influence of transport and the proximity of local sources that emit ozone precursors.

The Penobscot Nation is pleased to work with the US EPA on these important issues related to air quality and the protection of our environment. Please do not hesitate to contact Darrel Harmon, our Air Quality Manager at 207-827-7776 x7336 directly should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Hamilton, Chief

Copies: Ida Gagnon, US EPA Region 1
John Banks, DNR Director