UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

A-18J

MAY 23 2000

Bernie Killian, Acting Chief
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Dear Mr. Killian:

Pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has reviewed the Chicago ozone Post-1996 Rate of Progress Plan, and supplemental information, submitted on December 18, 1997, December 17, 1999, January 14, 2000, and January 21, 2000.

The conformity rule identifies limited technical and administrative criteria that must be used in determining adequacy of submitted State Implementation Plan (SIP) budgets for transportation conformity purposes. We have determined that the Chicago ozone Post 1996 Rate of Progress Plan contains an adequate mobile source emissions budget for volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the year 1999.

This adequacy finding means that the submitted 1999 motor vehicle emissions budget for VOC of 279.3 tons per day has met the standard requirements that any budget must meet before it can be used to determine conformity for a transportation improvement program or long range plan. This adequacy finding does not relate to the merits of the SIP submittal nor does it indicate whether the submittal meets the USEPA's requirements for approval of a Rate of Progress Plan.

The USEPA opened a comment period on the SIP's adequacy by posting it to our web site on January 7, 2000. The SIP was then reposted with changes on March 10, 2000. The web address is www.epa.gov/oms/transp/conform/adequacy.htm. The comment period closed on April 10, 2000, and no comments were received. In addition, the USEPA reviewed the comments made to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on the Chicago Rate of

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Progress Plan. The IEPA received comments at the public hearing on January 16, 2000, and in response to those comments, changed the calculation of the mobile source budget.

More information on SIPs and adequacy reviews is also available on the USEPA web site. The USEPA will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing this adequacy finding. If you have questions, please feel free to call me or Patricia Morris, of my staff, at (312) 353-8656.

Sincerely,

Bharat Mathur, Director
Air and Radiation Division

cc: Dennis Lawler
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Eugene Ryan
Chicago Area Transportation Study