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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

APR 27 2000

A-18J

Bob Hodanbosi, Chief
Division of Air Pollution Control
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
122 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Dear Mr. Hodanbosi:

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 Cincinnati ozone maintenance plan and redesignation request for Cincinnati dated June 28, 1999. Supplemental information was received on August 16, 1999, which contained the maintenance plan transportation conformity budgets. The public hearing materials were received on December 23, 1999.

The conformity rule spells out limited technical and administrative criteria that we must use in determining adequacy of submitted State Implementation Plan (SIP) budgets for transportation conformity purposes. We have determined that the Cincinnati ozone maintenance plan contains adequate mobile source emission budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) for the 2010 maintenance year.

This adequacy finding means that the submitted 2010 motor vehicle emissions budgets for VOC and NOx for Cincinnati meet 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.

The USEPA opened a comment period on the SIP's adequacy by posting it to our web site on January 7, 2000. The web address is www.epa.gov/oms/transp/conform/adequacy.htm. The comment period closed on February 7, 2000, and no comments were received. In addition, the USEPA reviewed the comments made to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on the Cincinnati ozone maintenance plan and comments received on the proposed approval

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of the redesignation to attainment and maintenance plan. The USEPA determined that comments received were not pertinent to the adequacy of the Ohio submitted mobile source budgets.

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: Andy Reser
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments